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Inside the Afghan guerrilla stronghold, page 14

Last Minute
Holidays
Bargains



A fireman hosing down rubble that, before the weekend of riot and destruction, had been the Railton Road sub-post office in Brixton.

Lord Scarman to hold Brixton inquiry

By Fred Emev
Political Editor

An urgent public inquiry is to be conducted into the Brixton riots by Lord Scarman, one of Britain's most senior judges, who will have powers to require evidence and grant witnesses immunity from prosecution, if necessary.

Announcing this in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, also confirmed that official compensation will be paid, through the police, for damages to property during the three days of disorder under the Riot Damages Act.

Turning aside Opposition pleas to widen the inquiry, Mr Whitelaw insisted that Lord Scarman would be able to interpret his terms of reference to include the effects of unemployment and poor housing as well as the relationship between the police and public.

The Home Secretary said he had acted rapidly to secure the services of Lord Scarman because he wanted the inquiry to provide a "quick answer".

Mr Whitelaw gave no time-scale, however. Informed sources later suggested that the inquiry might take about the same time as the seven months it took Lord Scarman to report after his 1974 inquiry into the Red Lion Square disturbance.

Asked about the proposed rift in Brixton next Sunday, Mr Whitelaw did not condemn it but stated in the Commons that he hoped "everyone will seek to do their best to cool the situation on the ground".

He looked for support for having taken what he called "very quick and decisive action" in setting up the inquiry.

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The inquiry is being set up under section 32 of the Police Act, 1964, which specifically includes "any matter connected with the policing of any area". Lord Scarman's terms of reference are: "To inquire urgently into the serious disorder in Brixton on April 10 to 12 and to report, with the power to make recommendations".

The proceedings will be held in public, except where Lord Scarman may decide it appropriate to hear evidence in private. Whether evidence is taken on oath is also at Lord Scarman's discretion. His power to give immunity could obviously affect prosecutions. That, the reason behind one of Mr Whitelaw's answers - which caused Conservative backbenchers some disquiet. Mr Whitelaw said he was advised that there was no reason why charges being brought against those involved could not proceed. "Whether that continues to be the case must depend on the progress of the inquiry."

Reaction in the Commons divided generally on predictable party lines with Conservative MPs concentrating on the criminal and the Labour side on the social aspect. Mr Whitelaw was all understanding, saying that everything could be

looked at in the inquiry. But, to repeated Labour urging that more money be spent, he finally retorted: "I do not think we can buy our way out of these particular problems".

Lord Scarman, who is 70 later this summer, is a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, who has also identified himself strongly with moves for constitutional reform. His report on the Red Lion Square demonstration was widely regarded as a model of its kind. When a Labour left-winger yesterday questioned what he could know of life in Brixton, Mr Whitelaw's insistence that Lord Scarman had the support from all sides of the House gained vigorous indications of respect from the Labour front bench.

According to our legal correspondent governments have

become used to sending for Lord Scarman when faced with sensitive issues. He investigated the riots in Northern Ireland in the summer of 1969; that report is regarded still as a model of lucid analysis. His inquiries into the Grangeville affair was perhaps less successful, namely because the issue was too overtly political.

Mr Whitelaw's announcement of the casualties and the "enormous" damage was heard in silence by the Labour benches, in marked contrast to Conservative backbenchers who voiced strong agreement with his tribute to the "great bravery and professionalism" of the police, and with his insistence that violence would not be condoned, whatever grievances individuals might feel.

The Council of Civil Service Unions' reaction last night was that the country's 540,000 white-collar civil servants would be invited to take part in half-day strikes action today as provisionally threatened on the grounds that Naval personnel were being used to beat the strike.

The move, which came after high-level ministerial discussions came after the Resolution had arrived at Faslane in the Gairloch, eight miles by road and 25 by sea from the Coulport Royal Navy Armament Depot.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that the 16 Navy personnel were working "to assist in carrying out one aspect of the preparation of HMS Resolution before she goes on patrol."

Navy moves in on strike-bound submarine

By Donald McIntyre

Widespread walkouts today throughout the Civil Service were forecast last night after a decision by the Government to use Royal Naval personnel to beat the strike action today as provisionally threatened on the grounds that Naval personnel were being used to beat the strike.

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Power fault halts the Tube

By Richard Ford and Peter Warrack

Thousands of Tube passengers were stranded in tunnels for up to 80 minutes last night after a power failure affected most of the London Underground network.

More than 400 trains came to a standstill on 241 miles of track when the system's main generating station at Lons Road, Chelsea, failed shortly before 4 pm.

A gas supply failure within the generating station was blamed for the breakdown in power but the back-up station at Greenwich also failed because the load placed on it was too much.

A few Metropolitan Line services, supplied by the outside grid, were able to run but the rest of the system was paralysed until 5.15 pm. Passengers in trains which stopped in tunnels had emergency lighting provided by battery. Lifts were halted at stations.

At King's Cross, one of the busiest Underground stations, passengers who had been trapped emerged from the tube more annoyed at being delayed than upset by their experience.

Mr Kingsley Winter, whose train stopped between Euston and King's Cross, said: "We were lucky because there were only about a dozen people in the carriage. The train stopped suddenly and the lights went out but almost immediately the emergency lights came on at each end of the carriage. There were lights in the tunnel as well."

We were stuck there for about an hour but no one seemed too bothered. We joked about it. It got a bit warm down there and the driver came along and opened the doors between the carriages to get some air flowing through."

Mrs Justine O'Hagan, stuck between Camden Town and Euston, said: "After we had stopped, the lights went down and emergency lights came on in the carriage. The driver came down and told us not to panic."

A couple of old ladies were going on a bit. One of them was afraid another train would run into the back of us."

Trains started running again when engineers managed to switch to oil supplies to service the generators at Lons Road but a spokesman could not give details of the original fault. He said that the generating station at Greenwich was only able to make up a slight loss of power at Chelsea but was unable to cope with a complete failure.

Gangs of youths renew attacks on police and property

By David Nicholson-Lord
Stewart Tindall
Nicholas Timmins
John Withrow
Martin Huckerby

Violence broke out in Brixton again last night, with mobs of youths setting light to at least seven cars, stoning police, and smashing shop windows.

As the community tried to repair the damage, three nights of violence, believing that at last tempers had begun to cool, youths, both black and white and many in their early teens, launched a series of sporadic attacks on police and property.

The trouble started shortly after the end of a meeting of the Brixton Defence Campaign in Abing Hall. Between two and three hundred people ran past Brixton police station close by, to be pursued by police and split up. Several shop windows were smashed in the main shopping street, Brixton Road.

In Railton Road, the scene of the worst rioting of the weekend, cars were set alight and about 250 police were on

the scene, some carrying riot shields, used in a brief skirmish in which youths hurled bricks from a wall.

The stormy meeting of the defence campaign had broken up without reaching any decision on what action to take over alleged police brutality. It meets again tomorrow.

Mr Rudy Narayan, the barrister involved in organizing the campaign, said the youths from the front line, otherwise known as Railton Road, wanted an immediate march on the police station.

A Times reporter leaving the meeting was attacked by a group of angry youths, who smashed his tape recorder and stole money from his wallet.

The new violence occurred as attempts were being made to restore a semblance of normality amid the buildings still smouldering from earlier riots.

Nine of the policemen injured over the weekend were still detained in hospital, including one constable who was unconscious with a fractured skull.

More than 75 people

appeared in south London courts yesterday, charged with such offences as assaulting the police, theft, and criminal damage; the majority were remanded on bail, but there were fines of up to £250 for several offenders.

Work continued on repairing the physical damage: nine buildings, including a public house and many shops, were demolished in the violence; 11 more were seriously damaged; and 30 suffered minor damage; 47 buildings were looted. Some estimates put the cost of the destruction at more than £2m.

Attempts were also under way to treat the less visible wounds suffered by the community. Mr Courtney Laws, the black director of the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association, warned outsiders to stay away, arguing that confrontation was needed, not confrontation.

Local blacks appeared to give short shrift to left-wing political groups seeking to organize action over the violence. Some of those associated with the

Brixton Defence Committee, however, sounded more militant when talking of the plan for a rally next Sunday, with people invited from all over Britain.

Harsh criticism of the police came from national figures, including politicians, trade unionists, and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, who joined local councillors and community leaders in condemning police methods in Brixton.

Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, criticized the police as "almost an army of occupation within the borough".

Support, however, came from members of the public who called at Brixton police station with gifts for the injured officers and messages of support.

To reduce tension, Mr Knight wanted the police to drop most of the charges against those arrested. He also demanded government action to tackle the social and economic problems in Brixton which played so great a part in creating the turmoil.

Thatcher criticism of violence

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, last night said she could not condemn too strongly the violence by Brixton rioters. She acknowledged the deep mistrust by young blacks of the police but said "nothing, but nothing justifies what happened."

It was totally wrong that anyone should attempt to take it out on the police.

Interviewed on ITN's News at Ten Mrs Thatcher said that "two-way trust" was the key to restoring the situation. "I do not know quite how to get it," Mrs Thatcher said. "Sometimes too much money does not help to solve problems. It causes more trouble."

Mrs Thatcher said she did not accept that unemployment was a primary cause of the disorders. She remarked that in the thirteenth century there had been no violence. She did acknowledge, however, that among "young West Indians" unemployment was particularly high, but she repeated that that

could not justify what had happened.

Mrs Thatcher insisted that money had been poured into Lambeth. She said £3m had been spent there last year on partnership schemes; the borough enjoyed a high rate support grant and £40m had been spent on housing. But she insisted that it would be a mistake to think that money could solve the problem. "Money cannot buy either trust or racial harmony," she said.

Mr Enoch Powell's remark: "You have seen nothing yet" (which he repeated in the Commons from his speech two weeks ago), was "very, very alarming," Mrs Thatcher said.

Mrs Thatcher also vehemently condemned the Lambeth Labour councillors who had referred to the police as an "army of occupation". She declared: "What absolute nonsense. What an appalling remark. I condemn the person who made it."

She said had the police withdrawn, as had been suggested, they would have been subject to the gravest criticism.



Missing tiles appear as black rectangles in a photograph sent by a television camera on the shuttle.

Confidence over shuttle despite loss of tiles

From Michael Leapman
Cape Canaveral, April 13

Halfway in its 54-hour mission, with 19 of 36 Earth orbits completed, most systems in the space shuttle Columbia continued to function as planned today. The astronauts, Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen, remained chirpy and confident.

Yet although officials continued to appear nonchalant about the 15 heat-resistant tiles which tore away during lift-off, it was increasingly clear that they were going to put a long-term blight over the mission.

In today's papers pictures of the damaged tile section of the craft shared front pages with those of the exciting lift-off, the trail of white smoke pouring from the soaring spacecraft. Officials would have much preferred the launch photographs to have had the pages to themselves.

Much of the purpose of such highly-publicized landings is to give public acceptance for higher government expenditure on space. Confidence is unlikely to be created by pictures of the ultra-modern craft that show it looking like the patched bath-tub of a do-it-yourself handyman.

There is no reason to doubt

the continued assurance of experts here that the loss of the tiles is not critical and will not endanger the craft or the crew when they reenter the earth's atmosphere tomorrow. Officials, however, still await the result of high-resolution photography from land-based cameras to see whether any tiles are missing from the underbelly of the craft, which may present a much greater hazard. That part of the craft undergoes the fiercest heat on reentry.

Mr John Yardley, director of the space shuttle programme, said today that only 20 per cent of the tiles on the bottom - which are black and white like the others - are critical that the loss of just one would imperil the spaceship.

The high-resolution cameras, owned by the Air Force, are based in Florida and Hawaii. If their pictures do locate damaged tiles, preventive measures could be taken to minimize the chance of disaster.

The few other problems experienced during the flight have been minor. The flight recorder has refused to switch itself off and a leaking valve caused pressurization problems. These were solved.

Another photograph and spotting the defects, page 7

Night of violence in Berlin

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, April 13

Fears of even worse violence mounted today after a night of rioting, arson and attacks on a United States military train and vehicles by supporters of 26 terrorists on hunger strike in jail.

A demonstration by about 500 sympathizers in West Berlin turned into a riot after rumours spread that one of the hunger strikers, Herr Sigurd Debus, aged 36, had died. Police denied the rumours.

Herr Debus, who is serving a 12-year sentence for bank robbery and plotting bomb attacks, is in a Hamburg hospital, where his chances of surviving much longer are said to be slim.

The terrorists want to be put together in large groups and to be treated as political prisoners, but the authorities have refused.

Their other aim is to provoke violence and terror from sympathizers.

West Berlin's main boulevard, the Kurfürstendamm, was strewn with glass this morning after demonstrators rampaged throughout the night, breaking almost all the windows and plundering shops.

They dragged vehicles across the road to make barricades, and threw fire bombs at banks. Twenty people were detained and one policeman was hurt.

In Frankfurt sympathizers smashed windows of banks and businesses.

An American military train was stopped and damaged. No one was hurt, but damage was estimated at about DM200,000 (£40,000).

The United States, and in particular its capitalism, multinational companies and its role in Vietnam, have been a favorite target for the West German terrorist movement since its beginnings a decade ago. Three United States soldiers were killed in bomb attacks on bases in 1972.

Signs point to end of recession

Tentative signs that the recession has passed its worst point have appeared. New Government figures show that manufacturing industry has experienced its first monthly rise in production since the autumn of 1979 - although of less than 1 per cent - and in a West Midlands survey 17 per cent of companies forecast increased profitability compared with 9 per cent in December.

GM for siege heroes

Police Constable Trevor Lock, hero of the Iranian embassy siege, and an unnamed SAS soldier have been awarded the George Medal. Four other SAS men, including the officer in charge of the operation, receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for what the citation calls "a brilliantly carried-out rescue".

Union hint of rail strike

Rail union leaders, dismayed by British Rail's 7 per cent pay offer, are consulting their executives. All three unions are seeking increases not below the miners' 13 per cent, and the assistant general secretary of the NUR said he could "see our members taking strike action".

Labour election drive

The Labour Party launched its national campaign aimed at making large gains at the local government elections on May 7.

Six London MPs in mid-term honours list

Among 15 new life peers in the mid-term honours list Mr Michael Foot has submitted six to strengthen the Opposition in the Lords. Five are former Labour MPs with junior ministerial experience. The list includes a former Conservative junior minister. The decision has aroused the wrath of left-wing members.

Bank to implement rise

Lloyds Bank will implement its 10 per cent pay offer at the end of the month despite opposition from the Banking Insurance and Finance Union. Other banks will follow, although may not pay the increase until next month. Biffa has already called a 24-hour strike by 8,000 staff in banks and cash centres in the provinces and London for next Thursday.

Polish reforms urged

The Polish Government has been urged by newspapers to show that it can act without coercion by using the hoped-for lull in strikes to push through reforms. Two leading newspapers said many Poles believed that some authorities acted only under the threat of strikes or similar action.

Fleet Street: The National Graphical Association is to advise its members on national newspapers to reject an 8 per cent pay offer

Chad: In a hospital without drugs, children play among war victims.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 26, 28; Appointments, 26; Legal appointments, 22; Sale room and antiques, 26.

Leader page, 15	of Montreux: John Hume discusses the Fermanagh and South Tyrone election; Alan Hamilton's London diary, 12, 13	Football: Aston Villa have three players doubtful for decisive league match; Sunderland boss's manager; Crickers: English players vote for rest days in Tests; Racing: Guineas favourite on trial at Newmarket; Snooker: Albion reaches quarter-finals at Sheffield; Equestrianism: Duke of Edinburgh to compete at Royal Windsor Show; Table-tennis: Preview of World Championships, 16	Stock Markets: The hammered stockbroking firm depressed market trading with leading agencies recording a fall. London: Closes closed up to £1 easier on the day. The FT index closed down 4.7 at 266.5	Financial Editor: Glaxo regains its glamour	Business features: Michael Frost on the money Poland owes to the West; David Blake on why Europe's recession may be worse than expected.
Home News 2-4, 6	Business 6-8	IB-24 16	Engagements 16	Parliament 16	Theatres, etc 27
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Book Review 11			TV & Radio 27		

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Labour opens poll campaign

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Labour Party, not amused by the positioning of a Conservative Party advertisement stating "Keep London out of the red", on a hoarding next to its new London headquarters in Walworth Road, yesterday launched its national campaign to make sweeping gains at the local government elections on May 7.

In confident mood the party aims to regain at least the position it held in the 1973 elections, when it won the Greater London Council, all six metropolitan county councils and 11 non-metropolitan county councils, and perhaps some more.

At present, as a result of the 1977 elections, Labour controls only two metropolitan county councils, and of the non-metropolitan county councils, one in England and two in Wales.

To accompany the party's ambition, Labour have put up a record number of candidates for the 4,371 seats, 3,833, compared with 3,384 in 1977 and 3,626 in 1973, the first time elections for the reorganized local government authorities were held.

At least two of the 501 seats in Greater London and the six

metropolitan counties are being contested, the exceptions being two solid Conservative seats in Southport, Merseyside. Elsewhere Labour has increased its interest, raising its numbers from 9 to 26 in the lost cause of Cornwall, 9 to 22 in the Isle of Wight, 26 to 60 in Lincolnshire and 32 to 73 in North Yorkshire.

Mr Ronald Hayward, the party's general secretary, told a press conference that at a time when local authorities were under unprecedented attack from the Tory Government, "when Mr Heseltine is putting in the boot in a very big way, the people need to vote Labour on May 7 to defend their communities against the Tory Government, and to put their trust in Labour councils to protect local interests and local services."

He said that mass unemployment and economic crisis overshadowed Britain, and the Labour Party offered an alternative. Mr Frank Allain, a member of the party's local government subcommittee, said that every household in the country had been invaded by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, with rent and rate increases, both caused by the Conservative Government. But Conservative councils should also hear the blame because they had supported the Government's policies.

Mr Benn reaffirms his party post challenge

By Richard Evans
Political Staff

Mr Wedgwood Benn reaffirmed his decision to contest the deputy leadership of the Labour party last night after attending a meeting of the left-wing Tribune group which highlighted the deep split his candidature has caused.

"I am still a candidate", he said after a two and a half hour meeting of about 50 Tribune MPs.

The deep divisions within the left-wing ranks were exemplified by the nine MPs who spoke in favour of Mr Benn's intentions and the 10 who spoke against. Some speakers, including Mr Stanley Orme, indicated they were in favour of voting on the issue but Mr Ian Mikardo, Tribune chairman, said there would be no vote while he was in the chair.

Mr Benn, who joined the group only three months ago, addressed his colleagues towards the end of the meeting and defended his decision to announce his candidature without telling them first.

He argued that the group had never discussed somebody's candidature for office in the past and he did not want to be seen to be canvassing for official support from the group. Instead he wanted the support of individual members.

Mr Benn said it was necessary to work out policy itself within the party because it was clear that lost of the Shadow Cabinet were not totally in tune with party policy. There needed to be an open debate between those who accepted party policy and those who did not. He denied that his challenge for Mr Dennis Healey's job was divisive.

Although no speakers at the meeting made a specific request for Mr Benn not to stand, several implied he should reconsider his decision.

Mr Eric Heffer argued that tactically it was the wrong time for an election while Mr John Silkin said that the arguments for not opposing Mr Healey, as deputy leader when Mr Michael Foot won the leadership were still valid.

Opposition front bench strengthened in the Lords



Among 15 new life peers are (top, from left): Mrs Jane Ewart-Biggs, Mr William Molloy, Mr Hugh Thomas, Sir Desmond Plummer and Professor Sir Max Beloff. (below): Mr Anthony Stodart, Mr Geoffrey Tordoff, Mr Edward Bishop, Mr Elystan Morgan, Mr Hugh Jenkins and Mr John Mackie.

Mr Foot justifies case for more peers

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, issued a statement yesterday to explain the appearance of a mid-term honours list, containing 15 new life peers, six of them to sit on the Labour benches in the House of Lords.

Although the list was sent to the Queen for approval by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the request for new peerages came from Mr Foot as long ago as last November, because he wanted to reinforce the Front Bench team in the Lords.

Yesterday, however, Mr Foot had to reckon on bitter opposition from left wingers in the party who say that since Labour is committed to the abolition of the House of Lords, no further peerages should be created at the behest of the Labour leader.

Mr Foot explained that his sole purpose in making the recommendations was to enable the party to carry out its unavoidable obligations. "They have all agreed to be full-time, active working peers and to play a full part as spokesmen for the Opposition in the House of Lords," Mr Foot said.

He recommended their appointment because it would have been unfair to the few who have been carrying the burden so far not to have responded to requests to supplement their number.

"This in no way changes my conviction, and that of the Labour Party, that the House of Lords ought to be abolished. However, I also believe that so long as it exists and is part of the legislative process, the Labour Party cannot leave our opponents to operate the place to suit themselves without even the surveillance which Labour peers can supply."

Mr Foot said: "The life peers announced today include five former Labour MPs, four of whom had ministerial experi-

ence in junior offices, and one former Conservative MP, also a junior minister. (Our Political Staff writes) Those who will go to strengthen the opposition front bench in the House of Lords are:

Mr Edward Bishop, aged 60, who was Labour MP for Newark from 1964 to 1973, having contested unsuccessfully Bristol West in 1950, Exeter in 1951 and Gloucestershire, South, in 1955. An aeronautical design draughtsman by profession, he was educated at South Bristol central school, the Marchant Venturers Technical College and Bristol University. He joined the Labour Party in 1936, and was a member of Bristol City Council for two periods from 1946 to 1966.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, aged 72, the former left-wing Labour MP for Putney (1964-79) who is best known as a former assistant general secretary of British Actors' Equity and a campaigner against nuclear weapons. He was chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He took part in the Aldermaston marches from 1956 to 1960.

He was Minister for the Arts from 1974 to 1976, having formerly been a member of the Arts Council.

Mr John Mackie, aged 71, chairman of the Forestry Commission, who was a farmer, joined the Labour Party in 1937 and after contesting two Scottish seats unsuccessfully in 1951 and 1955, became MP for Enfield, East, from 1959 to 1974. He was a parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture from 1964 to 1970.

Mr William Molloy, aged 62, who was educated at an elementary school and later at University College, Swansea.

He served in the Field Company, Royal Engineers, throughout the war, and was later in the control commission in Berlin. He was Labour leader

of Fulham Borough Council (1953-62) and MP for Ealing, North, from 1964 to 1973. He has maintained strong links with socialists in Europe and was a member of the European Parliament from 1976 to 1979.

Mr Elystan Morgan, aged 48, who is a barrister and began his political career in Plaid Cymru. For them he contested unsuccessfully Wrexham, in 1959, and Merioneth, in 1960. He joined the Labour Party in 1965 and was MP for Cardigan-shire from 1966 to 1974.

The former Conservative MP, Mr Anthony Stodart, aged 64, who was educated at Wellington College and started farming at the age of 18. He now farms at Hume, East Lothian.

He contested Midlothian at two elections and eventually got to Parliament as MP for Edinburgh, West (1959-74). He was opposition spokesman on agriculture and Scottish affairs (1966-69) and a junior minister at the Ministry of Agriculture from 1970 to 1974.

Miss Felicity Lane Fox has a formidable record of service for the disabled and is vice-president of the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation. She is herself disabled and has been confined to a wheelchair since the age of 12. She is 62.

Mrs Trivic Gardner, aged 54, is a member of Westminster City and the Greater London Council as well as being British chairwoman of the European Union of Women. She stood as a Conservative parliamentary candidate in two general elections, at Blackburn in 1970 and North Cornwall in 1974, but was defeated.

Mrs Beryl Catherine Platt is a qualified aircraft engineer who was recently elected vice-chairman of Essex County Council, having been chairman of its education committee.

Aged 48, she is a member of the court of Essex University and the Cambridge University Appointments Board, as well as

being on the Association of County Councils and the Inner London Education Authority.

Mr Hugh Thomas, aged 49, is a close supporter of the Government and the Prime Minister and chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, which was set up by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in 1974.

Last year he won an Arts Council prize for history and was appointed a consultant director of the Conservative Research Department for international affairs.

Mrs Jane Ewart-Biggs, aged 51, is the widow of the former British Ambassador in Dublin, who was killed in a bomb explosion in July, 1976.

In 1977 she was made president of the peace people's movement in Britain. Although she has been a Labour Party supporter for many years her husband's work prevented active participation in party matters. She has been a member of the Chelsea Labour Party for three years.

Sir Desmond Plummer has been chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board since 1974 and was leader of the Greater London Council between 1967 and 1973.

Professor Sir Max Beloff, aged 67, is a distinguished academic and a firm supporter of Mrs Thatcher. He has been a supernumerary fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, since 1975. In 1974 he founded the University College at Buckingham, the "private educational establishment, and was principal until 1979."

Mr Geoffrey Tordoff, aged 52, has worked in the chemical industry for 30 years and was chairman of the Liberal Party from 1976 to 1979.

Judge Alan Campbell, QC, has been a crown court recorder since 1976, having been called to the Bar in 1932. He is a prominent member of the Society of Conservative Lawyers and has written widely on restrictive trade practices. He is aged 63.

Government hopes on output, with warning over pay

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, opened the second reading debate on the Finance Bill in the Commons yesterday with a warning that the Government would be demanding further substantial reductions in wage increases in the next pay round.

Without that, he told MPs, there would be little hope of reversing the decline in the competitiveness of British industry. But he went on to give one of the most optimistic forecasts for economic prospects in the year ahead that have been heard recently from Treasury ministers.

With Mr Peter Shore, Labour's economic spokesman, dissenting from this sudden blossoming of hope, the Chief Secretary declared that there was at last some hard evidence to support the forecasts that the fall in manufacturing output might be over. Figures published during the day, he said, showed that in February manufacturing production recorded a rise in output of one per cent, while total industrial production rose by 0.5 per cent.

Mr Brittan told the House that the measures in the Budget enabled the Government to look at the coming year with greater confidence. The annual inflation rate had fallen from the peak of 22 per cent to 12 per cent in February and the underlying rate was about 10 per cent. Inflation was forecast to fall into single figures early next year.

Pay settlements had accelerated and the trend was firmly in single figures in manufacturing industry, compared to 16 per cent last year. Since last August underlying

average earnings rose by 0.7 per cent a month, less than half the increase of a year ago. Output, Mr Brittan predicted, was likely to be on a rising trend during the coming financial year.

Housing starts, which were so often forerunners of recovery in the past, rose sharply in January and February. The Federation of Builders' Federation was reported to be optimistic about prospects for this year.

While accepting that not too much weight should be placed on one month's figures, Mr Brittan felt that the indicators were encouraging.

Most observers expected to see some upturn in the world economy this year. But the Chief Secretary said that it did not mean that unemployment would begin to fall immediately.

It was only realistic to expect unemployment to continue rising for some time yet. The faster that incomes were made into inflation, the earlier a fall in unemployment could be expected.

Mr Brittan added that the Government remained committed to reducing the burden of taxation as soon as circumstances allowed.

On a less happy note, he made clear, to the evident discomfort of many Tory backbenchers, that the Treasury was likely to stand firm on its controversial proposals for raising the duty on petrol and diesel.

Mr Shore said the Treasury appeared to have a cup of sugar to make-believe. This was, he declared, a perverse and misconceived Finance Bill.

The Finance Bill was late given its second reading by 30 votes in 1974, a Government majority of 15.

Parliamentary report, page 1

200 protest at choice of Stansted

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The battle for Stansted as the site of the third London airport opened yesterday when an inspector appointed by the Government held a preliminary meeting of all the parties involved in the planning inquiry which he is to conduct in September.

About 200 members of the 150 local bodies that are objecting to the choice of Stansted held a silent protest with banners outside the town hall at Saffron Walden, where the preliminary meeting took place.

At the meeting the British Airports Authority, which plans to develop Stansted to accommodate 15 million passengers a year initially, and representatives of the opponents indicated the line that their evidence will take when the main inquiry opens.

The main inquiry is expected to last between nine and 12 months and to cost up to £4m.

Opposition to Stansted as the third airport is being marshalled by the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association, which has raised more than £100,000 to fight its case.

The association said yesterday: "Two previous inquiries proved convincingly that Stansted is the wrong place for this scale of development."

The airport authority's case disguises the wide and destructive impact such expansion of the airport would have.

Pupil profiles unlikely to oust exams

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The replacement of examinations by a system of pupil profiles was unlikely in the foreseeable future, HM Inspector of Schools told the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts yesterday.

Mr B. C. Arthur, staff inspector for special responsibilities for secondary schools, said there was nothing revolutionary about the idea of abolishing examinations for pupils at 16-plus: it had been suggested in the Norwood report of 1943.

There was no doubt that the present examination system was a pretty crude measure of what youngsters achieve. But he thought profiles would complement, not replace examinations.

Miss Peggy Marshall, chief inspector for secondary schools, said she saw no possibility in the short term of examinations "withering away".

Asked by Mr Christopher Price, chairman of the select committee, whether it would not take at least ten years for local authorities to be able to offer a minimum guarantee common curriculum to all pupils, Miss Sheila Brown, senior chief inspector, said she thought that was "probably realistic".

Decision day for Coin Street puts question mark over inquiries

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Mr Victor Radmore, a mild-mannered surveyor, faces an unenviable task this morning. As the inspector in charge of the inquiry into the redevelopment of the Coin Street site in London, he must decide whether to try to proceed as scheduled or to announce a postponement.

If he insists on going ahead, there is almost certain to be a repetition of last Tuesday's prolonged and unruly disruptions. If he agrees to a postponement, he runs the risk of being accused of surrendering to threats.

Last week Mr David Harter, a solicitor for the main group of Waterloo residents opposed to the scheme, put the position with surprising frankness. "The only alternative to postponement is to hold the inquiry behind police lines," he said.

Perhaps sensing that his statement might be misconstrued, he added that it was not intended as a threat. Few of his clients would have any such inhibitions. They have made clear that they intend to stop by any means the inquiry going ahead until after next month's Greater London Council elections, after which they expect a victorious Labour majority to scrap the scheme. Their attitude and tactics

have serious implications for the public inquiry system. The standard might have been set during the equally rowdy demonstrations at several motorway inquiries five years ago, but there is an important difference.

The motorway objectors were protesting at the Government's determination to bulldoze its way through, and at its position as both advocate and judge. In the case of the Coin Street proposals, the Government is not directly involved, and the opposition is essentially political.

According to the protesters, the Conservative majority at County Hall is abusing its powers and acting against the interests of the council's constituents in promoting a commercial scheme in conjunction with Greycoat Estates.

They are particularly incensed by the council's attempt to complete the sale of its land-holdings on the site to Greycoat before the elections.

But what is worrying impartial observers is the Labour Party's stated intention to change the evidence submitted to the inquiry if it regains power next month. Evidence, it is said, should be prepared by council officers on an impartial basis. For an inquiry to be told this month that a scheme is in the best interests of the community, and next month that it is unacceptable, is absurd.

Some protesters are undoubtedly long-standing local

residents who genuinely share Lambeth council's view that the land, which has been sold to a developer should be used for housing and public amenities.

But others appear to be outsiders whose main interest is in opposing private property developers. Many of the same faces have been conspicuous at the inquiry into the Hay's Wharf project, a mile or so down river.

In sharp contrast to Lambeth, Southwark council has backed both schemes, even though its Labour majority is said to be more strongly entrenched.

"The Coin Street debate is not really about planning at all, but about land values," Mrs Ann Ward, deputy leader of Southwark council, says. "As a good socialist, I should say that, instead of being sold to a developer, the land should be used for housing and public amenities."

"But we have got to be realistic. To put housing and light industry on prime sites would be economic nonsense. The housing would be impossibly expensive, and the factories are not what is needed. Children growing up in these areas are going to want white collar jobs."

"Coin Street has been derelict for 40 years. If this scheme is prevented, there will not be any housing built, instead, because there is no money to build it. The place will just stay derelict."

MPs opposed to the expulsion of Mr Sands

By Richard Evans
Political Staff

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, said last night his consultations with the main parties at Westminster "have shown that it is the present general view of the House of Commons that no action should be taken" to expel Mr Robert Sands, the H-block hunger-striker, from the House.

He said he had had a number of discussions during the day and would be reporting to the Cabinet today on what should happen after Mr Sands's election as MP for Fermanagh South Tyrone.

As expected Mr John Silkin, Labour's shadow Leader of the House, and Mr David Steel, Liberal leader, indicated that they were strongly against expelling the hunger-striker, on the ground that it would give the IRA a propaganda victory.

Mr Steel favours a review of the legislation on qualifications for election candidates.

Although Mr James Moynihan, the Official Ulster Unionist leader, is strangely in favour of expelling Mr Sands, it is unlikely that he will initiate such a move, given the views of the main parties.

Editor of 'Sun' on leave for six months

Sir Larry Lamb, editor of The Sun, will take six months' leave after Easter, during which he will be replaced by an executive from a rival newspaper, it was announced last night.

Mr Kelvin McKenzie, night editor of the Daily Express, will be acting editor of The Sun during the six months. Mr Peter Stephens, former editor of the News of the World, will take over as editorial director of News Group Newspapers Ltd, owners of The Sun.

The changes were announced by Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Group.

A classic at Heal's.



The Gropius Service. This is one of the most perfect design achievements of the Rosenthal Studio Line, offering an ideal combination of function and aesthetics. It's a perfect example of Professor Walter Gropius' functional designs which he pioneered at his legendary Bauhaus. Although unconventional at first glance the Gropius Service is based on the classic teapot shape, the same principle appears in reverse with the teapot, creamer and sugar bowl. This is one of the designs included in a special Classics at Heal's exhibition which is currently on and may be seen in the china department on the second floor. Rosenthal China (London) Limited, 3 Abercorn Trading Estate, Bridgewater Road, Alport, Middlesex HA2 1BD. Tel: 01-902 1053.

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...unless people of goodwill (like you) act, rather than merely feel sorry. It will be a sad time for two particular groups of people: old people who instead of facing the joy of spring feel sentenced to constant loneliness, or hunger; and the volunteers who long to help them but lack the funds.

More Day Centres are urgently needed all over Britain, where the lonely can find companionship, hot and low cost hot meals. So are geriatric day treatment centres and minibuses for volunteer drivers to help the housebound; and food for those in the world's hunger-stricken places.

Thanks to Help the Aged and its willing volunteers can't you spare can achieve a great deal for people in great need.

£5 buys 25 meals for one old person in need. £15 is a real help towards a Day Centre. £150 names a hospital bed in Africa or Asia.

Your kindness means so much to someone—please send soon, and enjoy Easter all the more because you shared some happiness.

Send to: Hon Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 75, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ (No stamp needed).

Russian leaders face some sharp choices throughout the next decade

A high-contrast, black and white illustration of a lion's head and paw. The lion is looking down, and its paw is visible in the foreground. The style is grainy and dramatic, with heavy shadows and bright highlights.

Fears of renewed violence at Easter 'solidarity' rally

By David Nicholson Lord

Fears grew yesterday of a renewed confrontation with police next weekend when black leaders plan to organize a mass "solidarity" rally involving representatives from 25 towns and cities.

The rally is to be held on Easter Sunday in a community centre near Brixton police station. Mr Rudy Narayan, co-ordinator of the newly formed Brixton Defence Committee which is organizing it, denied that this could lead to fresh violence.

Mr Narayan, a prominent black barrister, said the black communities of Brixton were determined to launch a massive defence campaign for those arrested, both political and in the courts. He spoke of black people "perhaps for the first time" facing the crisis with the police.

He added: "We believe the time has come for the black community to act as one. We are not going to break the law. We are going to act peacefully and lawfully. The rest is up to the police."

In the aftermath of the disturbances many community leaders were strongly critical of police tactics at the weekend and bitter that past warnings about growing tension in Brixton had been ignored.



Mr Rudy Narayan: "A crisis with racism."

The Rev Robert Nind, Vicar of St Matthew's, Brixton, for 12 years described some young police officers' attitudes towards blacks as "mind-blowing". He accused the police of setting up an arena for confrontation in the Brixton area and destroying the prospect of normality by cutting off the area from the outside world.

Mr Nind said that at 2.30 pm on Sunday he and the Right Rev Ronald Bawley, Bishop of Southwark, had asked the police to withdraw their main strength as there was no longer any threat to law and order. "They just drew up their shoulders and said 'We never withdraw'."

The charge of outside influence in the violence made by Sir David McNea, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was also fiercely denied although one community worker acknowledged the pull of increasing militancy among local youths.

Mr Ivan Madray, a senior youth club worker at the Raiton community centre, said: "Sir David has brought in policemen from outside the community who do not know a damn thing about the area or about the feelings of the people in it. That is the only outside influence that matters."

Mr Madray, whose youth club

is surrounded by the charred ruins of buildings at the lower end of Raiton Road, scene of Saturday's riots, said there are many people from both political extremes living in the area.

He said: "They are people who are ready for battle. They are here because they know there are helpless youths here whom they can easily spur on. They are giving the kids the message to stand up for their rights and to fight for their rights. They say you have to wage a war, some say a political war. When you have a group of disillusioned and depressed people anyone can come in and offer them sweets. Hungry people take sweets. These are the things we are fighting against."

Much of the radicalism is associated with the offices of *Race Today* magazine, on a side street off Raiton Road. Mr Darius Rowe, the editor, was not available for comment yesterday.

Many left wing groups, including the Revolutionary Communist Tendency and the Labour Party Young Socialists, moved into Brixton yesterday to announce press conference or publicized campaigns. They were dismissed contemptuously by local blacks. Copies of the newspaper *Militant*, organ of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency, were lying about in the offices of the Brixton Defence Committee—brought in by "freaks", according to one scornful member of the committee.

Many complaints about police behaviour have been made to the defence committee. They have been accused of deliberately creating confrontation and seeking violence.

Mr Narayan said: "Police committed enough crimes on Sunday night to lock up 100 policemen on riot charges themselves."

"We totally reject Sir David McNea's fabrication that outsiders came to Brixton. The only outsiders were the police, the Special Patrol Group, some armed with head and arm injuries."

One injured youth, Ricky Lawrence, aged 17, of Brixton, was alleged to have been with a group of about 100 youths caught between two lines of police in a narrow alleyway. He was taken to hospital with head and arm injuries.

Mrs Patricia Poole, a white housewife, of Coldharbour Lane, said Ricky had gone with her son and other friends as on-lookers to the town centre on Sunday evening.

They found themselves in a group of youths, black and white, who were herded into a narrow alley with mounted police at one end and officers carrying shields at the other. The lights in the alley went off—the youths were told to lie down on their faces.

Mrs Poole said her son, who was 13 and very skinny, had bumps on his head from being hit by a dustbin lid and had his coat ripped off. "He said they kicked him so hard his legs were lifted off the floor," Ricky Lawrence had 14 stitches in his head, but had been taken from Kings College Hospital where she had seen and talked to him, to Brixton Police Station.

Wayne Sanson, aged 17, of Camberwell was with them. He said police started "laying into everyone with dustbin lids, truncheons, and torches."



Photograph by Bill Warners

'It would have ended quickly if the Bill had gone away'

By John Witherow

Andrea Thomas and Simone Norman (above) are young, black, restless and typical of the hundreds of people who set Brixton ablaze over the weekend. They are also adamant that the black community was not to blame for the trouble.

The tension got bad but it would have ended if the Bill (the police) had gone away. If the police were not around there would be nothing to riot against. We don't want violence and violence is pushed upon us."

Perched on a front wall in a street close to Raiton Road, now a scene of desolation

after Saturday night's rioting, they recounted stories of how they had been insulted by the police. They said they had been taunted about being poor, about their colour and appearance and police had shouted comments at them such as "Thank God I'm homosexual".

Despite being aged only fourteen and sixteen, both had left home because they wanted to be more independent and now live in a hostel for the homeless in Brixton. They were born in the South London district and apart from a brief spell in neighbouring Clapham have lived all their lives there.

Their thinking shows signs of confusion and anger: "People want to destroy the shops to show them we love Brixton so much". The riot was also nothing to do with racism, they said. There were black and white people involved in the fighting and most of the anger was simply directed against the police.

Their talk though is full of warnings for the future: "All we want is to be treated as equals. We've had enough of the police. All we know", Andrea said, "is that there's going to be another time and it's going to be worse."

Brixton starts to count the cost

By David Nicholson-Lord, Sarah Segue, Nicholas Timmins, and John Witherow.

Britain's first opportunity to count the cost of the riots, in terms of injuries, wrecked buildings, and disrupted public services, came yesterday.

It was the day of the dustcart and the demolition cranes as shopkeepers and residents got back to work—and worried about who was to pay the bill. Some of the insurance assessors touring the area estimated the cost of the damage as £2m or more, and as the local Chamber of Commerce said it would be having an urgent meeting with Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Borough Council, about compensation.

Mr Leonard Winchester, secretary of Lambeth Chamber of Commerce, with about 250 members, many of whom were smaller shopkeepers in the Brixton area, said he feared many would leave.

"The pressing question is of insurance cover," he said. "Many insurers have different exclusion clauses, covering riots and civil disorder." He understood that the police might pay for compensation if it was accepted that the damage was due to riot. "We need clear guidelines on that," he added.

"It's disastrous. After the huge rate increases of the past three years, the supplementary rate of 37.5 per cent and the rioting, who on earth in their right minds would want to stay in Brixton?"

"They [the small shopkeepers] are all examining their leases to see how many months or years they have got to run."

With thousands of pounds of stock gone, he said: "Six years we have spent building up this business, and it's all gone in one evening."

"We pay £147 a week rates for this frontage. 4ft by 24ft. It's more expensive than Oxford Street."

Thousands of pounds on community relations, and look what it's done for us. They, he said, would not be paying their rates.

At the Dolcis shoe shop, Mr William Williams, the manager, said hundreds of pounds worth of stock and his window had gone. He pointed to a collecting box for the blind that had contained perhaps £50. "They smashed that open and threw it outside. You would think they would leave that."

In Electric Avenue, the centre of Brixton's street market of 35 shops, only half a dozen escaped damage and looting.

Mr Piers O'Connor, who lives above a ransacked jeweller's shop, said the shop's owner, who was aged 60, was cut about the head and showed as he tried to defend his stock.

"They came in waves," he said. There were mothers and children among them. Occasionally a car would pull up and shovel two or three television sets in the back and push off again, the police were just ineffective."

As a small army of council workers towed away wrecked cars and vans and cleared tons of rubble, twisted railings, and broken glass from the streets, many shops stayed shut and the only good business was done by the scores of place-glass windows firms replacing many thousands of pounds worth of smashed windows in almost a hundred shops.

Some of the bigger stores took a more sanguine view than Mr Winchester. Mr Richard manager of Woolworth's said: "Of course we are going to stay."

As the store—subject to two arson attacks, heavy looting and a fire devastation, looting, he said: "We have had a bit of trouble by several hundred criminals but certainly we are

going to stay."

The disturbance was not racial, he said. "It is thuggery that caused this. It is attributable to the same thuggery we had in Bristol. A fortnight ago that happened, and here we are again."

For many of the smaller shops the destruction is something they may not be able to ride. At least three small jewellers, as well as two chain jewellers, were ransacked, and in one instance the shop was destroyed after a petrol bomb attack.

Mr Desmond Gunn, who with his brother runs a jewelry and camera shop at the entrance to Reliance Arcade, off the main road, said: "We are ruined unless the insurance companies pay us."

In Raiton Road, by the scene of the worst confrontations with the police, Dr Mohammed Khan, who has practised there for five years, said he intended to leave. With all his surgery windows smashed and everything turned upside down, he said: "It is just a question of finding a place."

A surveyor for Watneys, examining the burnt out remains of the George public house, said of the Saturday night trouble: "The staff were threatened with knives. They beat up the tenant's wife and actually poured petrol on the tenant and tried to set fire to him. They threatened to cut off his wife's fingers unless she gave up her ring."

The announcement by Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that the compensation for the damage done would be paid under the Riot Damages Act, 1886, did not mean that the Metropolitan Police are admitting liability for the riot, the Home Office said.

The Act allows for claims for damage to houses, shops, or buildings, or property in the

premises which has been "injured, stolen, or destroyed, by persons riotously and tumultuously assembled together", and the compensation is a charge on the police rate.

It does not, however, cover damage to vehicles.

Claims from private individuals and companies have to be made to the Metropolitan Police receiver within 14 days of the incident on a form that Office. Those seeking compensation for personal injury will have to approach the Criminal Injuries Board.

The injuries and damage in Brixton included:

- A total of 143 policemen taken to hospital, of whom nine are still detained;
- One policeman, Police Constable Dennis Ozols, still unconscious with a fractured skull suffered on Saturday night.
- Condition: "serious";
- At least 30 people, other than policemen, treated in hospital;
- One girl, attempting to flee to the rear, was raped, according to Scotland Yard.
- The total of arrests was put at 199.
- Twenty-six premises damaged by fire, including three public houses, five houses, and two boutiques. A total of 76 shops and homes were seriously damaged, and 31 shops and homes slightly damaged.
- Sixty-one police vehicles damaged, four of them written off.
- Nineteen private vehicles damaged by stones and fire; windows smashed in three coaches used by police.
- Postal services in Brixton area disrupted. Sub post-office in Raiton Road destroyed by fire, work at sorting offices at Brixton and Stockwell seriously disrupted.
- Deliveries of newspapers, groceries and some collections likely to be affected.

National Front man among whites and blacks fined and bailed

By Staff Reporters

As several buildings in Brixton still smouldered yesterday, the courts opened hearings against people accused of a variety of offences arising from the riots.

At Horseferry Road, Leslie Roberts, a swimming instructor, who says he is a member of the National Front, was among seven whites and 14 coloured appearing in court.

Roberts, who was fined £40 for swearing at police, blamed the police for the troubles and claimed the youths who were on the rampage sought "revenge" for the death on Saturday of a young black who was stabbed in Raiton Road on Friday. (In fact, Scotland Yard said yesterday that the man, Mr Michael Bailey, was in St Thomas' Hospital and was likely to be discharged shortly.)

Another white, Nicholas Ouis, a 23-year-old butcher of Portland Street, Walworth, was fined the maximum of £50 after admitting threatening behaviour. He was said to have thrown stones at the police after going to his employer's shop in Brixton Hill after the premises had been looted.

A third white, Richard Pearce, aged 48, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody accused of assaulting

Eighteen other men and women were remanded on bail, variously charged with assault, on police threatening behaviour, possession of a dangerous weapon, and other offences.

Mr Kenneth Harrington, the magistrate, banned some of the defendants from Raiton Road as a condition of bail, and bound over others to keep the peace. All but three of the 22 defendants in Brixton or the surrounding areas.

Those banned from Raiton Road were: John Frederick, aged 21, a carpenter, of Gordon House, Battersea, accused of theft and assaulting police; Andrew Cairns, aged 26, a jobless white, of Barnwell Road, accused of stealing; Ronald Pilgrim, aged 23, a salesman, of Regina Road, South Norwood, using insulting words and behaviour; Norris White, aged 44, unemployed, of St Agnes Place, Kennington, accused of having an offensive weapon, and Donald Facer, aged 29, a record promoter, of Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, accused of using threatening words and throwing a missile.

The five, together with Owen Westcar, aged 22, a youth worker, of Mayall Road, Herne Hill, who is accused of assaulting police and having an offensive weapon, were also ordered to live at their own addresses.

Paul Reynolds, aged 31 and unemployed, of Mayfield Road, Brixton, was given unconditional bail. He is accused of trespass with intent to steal.

Nigel Button, white, aged 26 and unemployed, of Latham Street, Brixton and Michael Spence, aged 22, a fitter of Lancaster Gardens, Fulham, were given unconditional bail. They are accused of having a brick as an offensive weapon.

O'Neill Crooks, aged 17, a labourer, of Leander Road, Brixton, accused of using threatening behaviour, throwing stones, stealing a police jacket and assaulting a policeman, was granted bail and bound over to keep the peace.

A white woman, Bruna Balfant, aged 32, housing adviser, of Buckleigh Avenue,

Morden, Surrey, was accused of threatening behaviour, and having an offensive weapon. She was given unconditional bail, as was Michael Carty, aged 20, painter, of Teckford Road, Stockwell. He is accused of having an offensive weapon and assaulting police.

Tyrone Kum, aged 18, a clerk, and Montague Walters, aged 17, a printer's apprentice, both of Margon House, Overton Road, Stockwell, were both accused of assaulting police. They were granted bail and bound over to keep the peace.

Also granted bail were: Cumbert Louis, aged 17 and unemployed, of Clapham North, accused of threatening behaviour; Maxine Barnett, aged 13 and unemployed, of no fixed address, accused of theft;

Tina Davis, aged 19 and unemployed, of Overton Road, accused of theft and Lindford Michael, aged 23, a motor mechanic of Long Lane, Southwark, accused of entering with intent to steal.

Forty-six people appeared before Camberwell Magistrates on similar charges—including having a car as a weapon. Most were from Brixton and South London, and nearly all were remanded on bail.

Further nine people were brought before South Western Magistrates. Two were dealt with, four remanded on bail and three remanded in custody—one a girl of 17 who had to be restrained by policemen when she tried to leap from the dock.

The two dealt with, an unemployed white man, aged 21, and an 18-year-old black secretary, each admitted using threatening words and behaviour. They were fined £200 and £250 respectively and bound over to keep the peace.

He was William Cawston of Brixton. Det Sergeant Ben Bailey said Cawston was among a group of 150 youths in Raiton Road and was seen throwing bricks at police cordons.

Cawston denied hurling bricks. He said they were only small stones. Det Sergeant Bailey said: "Over the two-day period some 200 police officers have been injured, some seriously. They are still in hospital and some are resting at home. Many injuries have been caused by missiles that hit them on the head."

Miss Dawn Freedman, the magistrate, passing sentence said: "Each person who was involved in this appalling incident placed their name, and without each person no doubt the incident might not have been as serious as it was."

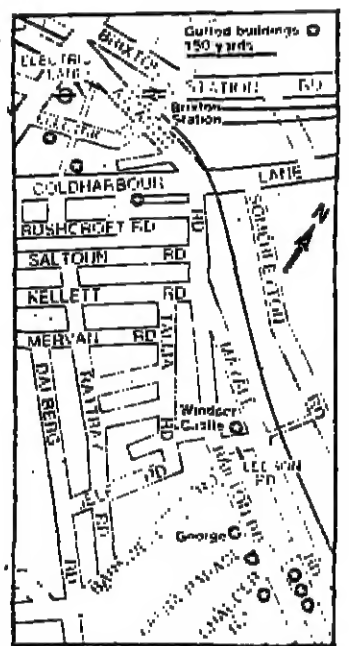
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A white woman, Bruna Balfant, aged 32, housing adviser, of Buckleigh Avenue,



The areas of weekend rioting

TUC wants more help for jobless

By Staff Reporters

Trade union leaders are demanding a big increase in government spending in inner-city areas to reduce unemployment among young blacks in the wake of the Brixton riots.

Talks on a TUC initiative were held at Congress House last night between national and regional officials, and local leaders of the Lambeth and Greater London trades councils, after Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, made his appeal for funds.

Describing the riots as "a sad reflection of Britain", Mr Murray said: "Following the incidents at St Paul's, Bristol, the TUC warned the Home Secretary about the disproportionate effects of the recession on the black communities."

He said the Government should "make a commitment in support, with adequate resources, the regeneration of Brixton."

Mr Kenneth Gill, chairman of the TUC Equal Rights and Race Relations Committee, said the riots was a "blind protest against appalling conditions and the police."

He said the Government should "make a commitment in support, with adequate resources, the regeneration of Brixton."

Mr Murray said: "Following the incidents at St Paul's, Bristol, the TUC warned the Home Secretary about the disproportionate effects of the recession on the black communities."

He said the Government should "make a commitment in support, with adequate resources, the regeneration of Brixton."



Photograph by Harry Kerr

One of the 107 black policemen in the Metropolitan police on duty in a devastated area of Brixton with a white colleague. Outside London, the forces with most officers of black and Asian origin are the West Midlands (47), Greater Manchester (17) and Leicestershire (12). There are only six on Merseyside.

Policing and crime

Why we stop black youngsters

By Stewart Tendler

Crime Reporter

It may well have not happened last weekend but it was bloody well going to happen sometime. For one middle-ranking policeman with experience in and around Brixton the past few days came as no surprise.

As far as the outside world is concerned realization dawned with the devastation, looting, and barrage of missiles. To the police it was the point at which a steady drip turned to a torrent.

It has been a standing rule in the area for some years that policemen patrolling in uniform or plain clothes travel in pairs.

The Friday and Saturday night patrols to the big dance halls in Streatham at the top of Brixton Hill are undertaken with caution. The appearance of the blue uniforms at the edge of the black dancers often brings a heightened atmosphere and the risk of a bottle flying out from the crowd.

It adds up in the middle-aged officer's mind to an area "very hostile to police hostility only from the people who live there but from the local authority as well."

Like many police officers, this man saw a distinct difference between white and black in relation to the police. "There is almost an inbred tendency for the coloured people to believe they need to be able to do their own thing," he said.

That difference alone might bring difficulties, but the ingredients in the melting pot only from the people who live there but from the local authority as well."

Last autumn Scotland Yard sent in a special squad of 150 detectives and uniformed men

to fight street crime in the Brixton area.

In November, 1980 robbery cases dropped from 68 in some months a year before to 33 while handbag snatches fell from 47 to 35 and other types of "snatch" robbery from six to two. At the same time burglaries over the month fell by 30 per cent.

Sixty per cent of those arrested were white while the rest were coloured.

The officer said many of the robberies were the work of black youths and the arrests for burglaries, once again shows a predominance of black youths committing them. Given that situation, "you have a natural tendency for police officers to look towards black youths as a source of crime. That is why you get a situation where the police stop black youngsters."

In 1978, for example, 77 per cent of the people arrested were black and there have been claims of discrimination from a community that makes up less than a quarter of the Lambeth borough population.

The law is now being repealed after a Commons sub-committee of the Home Affairs Committee examined the legislation last year.

Sir David McNea, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has defended its use, pointing out that "there was no reason to doubt the validity of police arrest rates for certain street offences including suspected persons."

The questions over the use of the "sus" law in the Lambeth area were followed by a highly critical local report earlier this year on general policing methods. The independent inquiry warned in January that action had to be taken to avoid an eruption like that at St Paul's, Bristol, a year ago.

A working party, headed by Mr David Turner-Samuels, QC, found "the conditions of community/police relations in Lam-

beth is extremely grave. This situation is created by the nature of the police force and basic policing methods."

The police did not take part in the inquiry which, they felt, would not produce an impartial report. Testimony was submitted by 275 groups and individuals.

It was clear to that policeman yesterday that the young men who do much of the policing in such inner city areas are in difficulties. "It takes", he said "years of experience to get the right attitude to deal with everyone and everybody, to turn it on for one and off for another."

With few older men to advise him a young officer—constables can be on the streets from the age of 19—may find himself in a dilemma. Tension may inhibit or encourage over-reaction. Attitudes can be sharpened by the memory of a recent fight or a complaint.

The public at large expects its policemen to be all things to all men from the very first day. They make no exceptions," he said, "whether the man is young or mature. They see the mature man as the young man does not give the young man much chance to manoeuvre."

In the past in Brixton the men on the street have been supported by the Special Patrol Group vans. The use of the SPG, which has been accused of heavy-handed tactics, was the centre of argument but the police felt the extra presence achieved its end. They did not arrest any of the "arch-villains", the policeman said yesterday. "But they dampened down activities and the crime rate dropped."

In the aftermath of the weekend the use of the SPG is likely to be raised again. There may well be calls for better community relations and more coloured policemen.

As for coloured policemen? The officer yesterday said: "One coloured officer I know has had some problems from whites, but had a lot of problems with blacks. He would not say any more abuse, he would not get any less and would be deemed a traitor."

There are in fact, 107 black and Asian police officers serving in the Metropolitan Police, out of a total of 286 in England and Wales. The Home Office said yesterday, Time 286 compare with a total of 117,000 police officers in England and Wales (Peter Evans writes).

Mr Len Murray, Minister of State at the Home Office, said on November 23 in reply to a parliamentary question: "Chief officers of police share my wish to increase the number of police officers from the ethnic minorities. A special advertising campaign has just begun in the ethnic minority press and will continue for some months. This follows a similar campaign early last year."

A report in 1972 of the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration expressed concern about the low numbers, describing them as "only a handful" and called on the Home Office to study again the recruitment of black and Asian officers to see what encouragement could be given.

The report said: "The police traditionally represent the population of which coloured people now form a significant part. They should therefore be represented, at least roughly, in relation to their numbers."

In 1972 there were just 33 black and Asian officers in England and Wales, 12 of them in the Metropolitan Police.

Home Office statistics do not show before 1967 how many black and Asian officers there were in the Metropolitan Police in that year there was only one.

Before then, the feeling was

that such officers would not be familiar enough with British ways to be able to enforce the law, felt about exercise discretion, the greatest power a policeman has.

Later, it became apparent that there was some resistance within the black community, in particular, to joining the police. The select committee noted that West Indians commonly expressed the fear of being labelled as "traitors" or "Uncle Toms" by their communities, stemming from a view of the police as part of an anti-coloured establishment.

The select committee foresaw that coloured recruitment would not greatly improve while many young West Indians saw the police as a means of escape from oppression and while many Asian parents judged police service here by the standards of the police service in other countries.

Recent recruiting aimed directly at people of black or Asian background is regarded as disappointing. When the campaign began there were about 30 black and Asian officers in the force. Nevertheless, the Home Office figures show that numbers grew to 71 in 1976. The latest target given by the force is "about 110".

Since 1975, there has been no direct appeal for black and Asian recruits, though they have been featured in pamphlets, including recruitment literature.

The most senior officer of West Indian or Asian background is Inspector Ron Hope, who is of Guyanese origin. He went to school in Wotton and began police work in Lewisham. As a sergeant he took a course at the Police College, Bramhall.

When the latest recruitment campaign was launched, on October 23, 1975, Sir Robert Mark, who was then Commissioner, said: "The only colour we recognise is blue."

Before then, the feeling was

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Normally, the only security we require will be the capital assets you've purchased.

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مكتبة الركن

Hint of rail strike action if pay offer is not improved

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

British Rail, which yesterday dismayed union leaders with a 7 per cent pay offer, was last night facing mounting cancellations of Sheffield and Manchester services because of industrial action over a planned freight line closure.

Union leaders representing 180,000 British Rail workers reacted sharply to the annual pay offer tabled in national talks in London. They are to consult their executives before resuming negotiations on Thursday.

All three unions emphasized at the talks that they were seeking increases of not less than the levels close to 13 per cent awarded to miners and workers in the utilities.

Mr Charles Turnock, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said after the talks that he could "see our members taking strike action if British Rail do not move from where they are at the moment".

The separate dispute over BR's intended closure of the transpennine Woodhead tunnel freight line escalated sharply after NUR members began to carry out the union's instruction not to collect fares on trains between Manchester and Sheffield this week.

By last night most Inter-City services between Sheffield and London, with services between Sheffield and New Mills in Derbyshire, had been cancelled. About 30 Sheffield-based guards came out on strike when one of their colleagues was sent home for refusing to collect fares on the 5.40 am Sheffield to New Mills pay train.

After a similar suspension of a booking clerk at Marple station, east of Manchester, on Friday, signs of staff near by struck, halting busy eastbound commuter services to New Mills, and to Glossop and Hadfield.

Last night British Rail said that the services were likely to be cancelled again today. About sixty staff at the Manchester end of the line had been suspended by the end of the day.

British Rail, which is closing the 42-mile Woodhead tunnel line to save £2.5m a year, argues that it is no longer needed. The NUR fears that passenger services might eventually be affected.

With losses of up to £80m expected for 1980, British Rail has been reminding union leaders that Cabinet ministers are discussing BR's recent claims for a £5.67bn increase in investment over the next nine years.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR's director of industrial relations, said he hoped industrial action would not be considered because it was entirely counter-productive.

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Wife defies mob attacks on fortified home

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Mrs Ann Pitt slotted two heavy iron bars across the inside of the front door and retreated into the living room, which is darkened by bullet-resistant windows.

"Every day her old terrace house in north Belfast is bombarded by bottles, bricks or abuse. The heavy front door, covered on the inside by bullet-proof plastic, is pockmarked with shrapnel from the bricks that rain on it most nights.

And yet the wife of Mr Gerard Pitt, Independent MP for West Belfast, smiles defiantly: "They will not drive me out. I cannot really explain why, perhaps it is something to do with having a duty to people."

The telephone rings incessantly. In the hall there is a pile of cards with the number written on by hand, and there cannot be a street in west Belfast, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, where somebody does not have Mr Pitt's number.

A camera surveys you from high above the front door as you ring the bell. There is an intercom designed to your identity, but it looks decidedly out of order. Wire stretches across the vulnerable points.

The housing executive has put a compulsory purchase order on it and the Pitts have very recently perhaps it will be redevelped, perhaps not, but they are staying.

Mrs Pitt is something of a legend in Belfast. She has brought up five daughters; four are married, the fifth will be away to university in London, if the A Level results are good enough.

"What happens," she explained, "is that the mothers go to the club, and the children come and stone us. Most times it's fun for the children, but at times of high emotion they really mean it."

The election to the Commons of Mr Pitt, a member of the Provisional IRA, hunger-striker, last Friday was such a time.

They came with an impromptu band, banging blowing hammering at the door until 3 the next morning, all because Mr Pitt is outspoken against the IRA.

"I would not say much for their musical talent, but they sure could toss a brick," she chuckled. The bombardment went on for 10 hours. Mr Pitt was in London and the police said what they could. But the fires were burning all over north and west Belfast as Roman Catholics rejected.

But Mrs Pitt is not one to fuss too much, as long as nobody breaks into the house. In 1976 they did. The battered front door lay splintered on the hall as a gang burst in to be greeted by her husband, waving a pistol at them from the top of the stairs.

"Jesus, I was frightened," said Mrs Pitt, who is recovering from a broken leg after a fall at home. "That was a night all right." She hobbled back to her chair and chuckled again.

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Reagan campaign aide denies political aim in Khmer Rouge visit

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, April 13

Dr Ray Cline, who was an adviser on foreign policy to Mr George Bush and then to Mr Ronald Reagan during last year's election campaign, crossed the Cambodian frontier from Thailand last November and visited a refugee camp directed by Mr Kheng Thirith, wife of the Khmer Rouge leader, Mr Ieng Sary.

He said here this afternoon that he told Mrs Ieng that he was interested in the refugee question only, that he did not represent President-elect Reagan and that she must not draw false conclusions from his presence.

In Cairo today Mr Ieng Sary, Deputy Prime Minister of the Khmer Rouge "Democratic Kampuchea", said at a press conference that Dr Cline had visited his group on a mission of information (Agence France Press reports). He denied that the Khmer Rouge were getting any military assistance from Washington but expressed hope that the Reagan Administration would eventually take steps to support the movement.

Dr Cline said the camp's population was almost entirely women and children. Mrs Ieng welcomed him and expressed delight in this apparent expression of American interest and

sympathy. Dr Cline believes that the whole episode may have been designed by the Khmer Rouge and Chinese to be used as a propaganda demonstration of American support for the Pol Pot regime, which China supports.

Sihanouk links: Mr Sary said at the press conference that the Khmer Rouge was coming to closer political agreement with the self-exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk and hoped that he would soon lead a united resistance movement against the Vietnamese invaders (Our Cairo Correspondent reports).

Prince Sihanouk, who is in Pyongyang, North Korea, has not yet revealed all his terms for accepting the leadership. But Mr Sary said four of the five conditions already set by the prince had been agreed, and the fifth was being considered.

Mr Ieng Sary listed the agreed conditions as: changing the country's name from Democratic Kampuchea to Kampuchea; changing the flag and national anthem; the prince's right to form his own armed forces; and the establishment of a parliamentary system after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The fifth condition, he said, was that after Vietnamese withdrawal the entire peninsula movement would be disbanded.

Banaban Island compensation dispute is settled

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

The long dispute between Britain and the Banaban Islanders over compensation for damage done by phosphate mining to their Pacific Island homeland, was brought to an amicable conclusion yesterday, with the handing over of a cheque for Australian \$10m (about £5m).

Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made the payment on behalf of the governments of Britain, Australia and New Zealand, to the Chairman of the Council of Leaders of the Fijian Island of Rabi, where the Banabans now live.

Settlement of the dispute represents a notable success for the Banabans, who fought a long battle for compensation, aided by British MPs, who took up their cause.

Australian given 30 months for raping wife

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, April 13

A man was sentenced in the Melbourne county court today to two and a half years jail for raping his wife. He was also sentenced to 12 months for assault occasioning bodily harm. The judge ordered the sentences to be served concurrently, with a minimum of 18 months before being eligible for parole.

The jury of nine men and three women on Friday found the husband, who is 25, guilty of rape, with mitigating circumstances, and of assault. The husband had pleaded not guilty.

The offences occurred in March last year in a flat where the wife was living with her child after a separation order two months before. She had family court orders restraining her husband.

Cornish farm isolated after signs of foot-and-mouth

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Government scientists ordered five miles cordons round a Cornish cattle farm yesterday because of suspected foot-and-mouth disease, but last night restrictions round one farm, near St Ives, were lifted after tests proved negative.

Samples of virus on the other farm, at Kea, near Truro, were being analyzed at the Animal Virus Research Institute at Pirbright, Surrey, and the results should be known today.

The farm is about 200 miles from the sites of recent foot-and-mouth cases in Brittany and the Isle of Wight.

Mr Robert Few, the Isle of Wight farmer who lost 166 cattle in the first case of foot-and-

mouth in Britain for 13 years, visited the mainland yesterday under government licence.

The Government announced yesterday that it had paid £91,414 in compensation to farmers whose animals had been slaughtered in the campaign to prevent foot-and-mouth spreading from Mr Few's farm.

The money was paid at average rates of just over £295 a cow and £44 a pig for a total of 623 animals.

All restrictions on the movement of animals and farmers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have ceased except on three farms on the island where animals have been buried to prevent the disease from spreading. The last mainland restrictions were removed last night.

Mini Metro gets safety award

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The BL Metro is the 1980 winner of the Doo Safety Trophy, the leading British road safety award. It was judged "superior in several aspects to many larger and heavier cars which are inherently less vulnerable in an accident".

The judges praised the Metro for its outstanding handling qualities, all-round vision, dual circuit braking system and a degree of protection to occupants, both front and side impacts, going beyond the requirements of legislation. Mr Harold Musgrove, managing director of Austin Morris, received the trophy in London yesterday from Mr. Stirling Moss, the former racing driver.

They have installed themselves in the apse, with sleeping bags and bottles of water. A Bourges doctor is with them. When they were asked why they had picked on Bourges for their demonstration, they replied: "Bourges is in the centre of France." The choice of the town was symbolic.

The presence of the hunger strikers has not interfered with services in the cathedral. Worshipers did not express any indifference towards them. Mr Vignancourt, the Archbishop of Bourges, who came to see the strikers on Friday, has made it known that he cannot intervene in the cathedral in a public building.

The Archbishop said the right of asylum had always been upheld in religious buildings.

"The cathedral is a place of prayer and worship, and silence and calm must be respected. So far, the young men have behaved themselves. I am concerned there has never been any question of their expulsion by force."

But he did object to their addressing the audience of 2,500 to 3,000 people attending a religious service in the cathedral last night. Arrangements were made by sympathizers for them to do this in a tent outside, after which they returned to the cathedral to resume their hunger strike.

The six French Basques transferred to Paris for trial are members of the left-wing Basque movement Abertzales. They are all aged between 22 and 25, and are accused of having carried out 11 bomb attacks against public buildings and private property in the western Pyrenees between June 1978 and September 1979, which caused extensive damage but no loss of life.

It is the first time that the Court of State Security has had to handle a case concerning Basque separatists.

Six Basques begin hunger strike in a cathedral

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 13

Six young Basque militants from Bayonne have been on a hunger strike in Bourges cathedral since Friday to protest against the transfer to Paris of three men and three women for trial by the Court of State Security. They were joined by a seventh from the Var yesterday.

They have installed themselves in the apse, with sleeping bags and bottles of water. A Bourges doctor is with them. When they were asked why they had picked on Bourges for their demonstration, they replied: "Bourges is in the centre of France." The choice of the town was symbolic.

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By Peter Stafford
Is France on the brink of collapse, or is it in the forefront of progress and an example to its neighbours? Both views can be heard as the French presidential election gathers steam, depending on whether one listens to President Giscard d'Estaing, who talks of French successes, or to one of his opponents.

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist candidate, is one of those who talk as though disaster was imminent. He was himself Prime Minister until 1976, when he broke with the President, whom he now accuses of presiding over a drastic weakening of France's position, both internally and in its relations with other countries.

By contrast, M. Giscard d'Estaing points to the industrial achievements of the last few years, and produces a list of sectors in which France is ahead of its competitors in European countries. He accuses his rivals of demoralizing the country by their criticisms of its performance.

The two men have a great deal in common. Both are articulate products of the highest levels of the French educational system, both have made their political careers under the Fifth Republic, and both are extremely ambitious. But their temperaments are very different, and their differences are reflected in their personal styles.

Mr Chirac is a compelling speaker who electrifies his supporters. A few nights ago at a rally in Lyon he was cheered time and time again as he denounced the damaging effects of unemployment in France and

Japan questions U.S. version of sea disaster

Tokyo, April 13.—Mr Mike Mansfield, the American Ambassador to Japan, said today that a Navy investigator had arrived in Tokyo to interview the 13 survivors of the Japanese cargo ship that sank after colliding with a United States nuclear submarine.

Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Foreign Minister, said in Parliament today that he was not convinced by American explanations that poor visibility prevented the submarine and the United States Navy aircraft from extending rescue assistance.

Mr Mansfield told reporters that the incident on Thursday was the most distressing of his four years in Tokyo.

Some Japanese officials have accused the American submarine of abandoning the survivors.

Mr Mansfield said Captain Willis Rich had arrived from Seventh Fleet headquarters at Pearl Harbour to begin a formal inquiry into the incident. He will interview the 13 survivors of the ship who were rescued by a Japanese destroyer on Friday.—UPI.

The evening began with an elaborate slide show, accompanied by music, which illustrated the crisis points around the world and went on to present France as an oasis of calm and technological progress. Then came M. Giscard d'Estaing himself with a fighting speech in which he castigated his opponents and defended his own policies.

A Communist rally is different again. M. Georges Marchais, the party's candidate, is not likely to survive the first round of the elections, but he wants to make sure that no one ignores the party's power. So last weekend he organized a huge rally at an outdoor stadium in Marseilles, a Socialist stronghold, to show what he could do.

Party members arrived at the stadium en masse, marching along the boulevard which led to it with red flags and scarves and red banners. The stadium itself, with a capacity of more than 40,000, was almost filled.

M. Mitterrand, who might well win the election, appears in the campaign style of the least polished of the four main candidates. He is a fiery speaker when he chooses, but there is something almost avuncular about him when he speaks.

A rally in Dijon last week, led over the pulpit at raising his voice only for a few key passages.

By contrast, M. Giscard d'Estaing is a more reserved man who does not have the same rapport with his audience. He appears on the platform, and in the earlier stages of his campaign was apt to bore his listeners with long lists of statistics.

But he, too, is running a very professional campaign, and

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WRAC college to be merged with Sandhurst

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Army will take another pace towards integration of the sexes on May 1 when the Women's Royal Army Corps College is to be officially merged with the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

There is close liaison, official and unofficial, between the two institutions, which are only just over a mile apart at Camberley, Surrey.

The Army's man and woman officer cadets are to join for 100 sessions during each course, for instruction in subjects such as Army organization, military tactics, law and administration. "But drill and weapon training will not be included for the time being."

A WRAC spokesman said last night: "We are looking for controlled evolution rather than sudden change."

The girl cadets were trained by bus for their joint session with Sandhurst from their own building, which has been occupied by the corps for its trainee officers since 1965.

There is no suggestion that the WRAC cadets should be found new permanent accommodation on the Sandhurst campus. "We would never be able to cope with all the recruits," a WRAC officer said.

The Royal Military Academy, which is among the world's most celebrated training establishments, consists of three colleges, known as Old, New and Victory. The WRAC College will in effect become the fourth, retaining its title.

Part of the college where women NCOs and territorial Army officers attend courses will remain separate from the RMAS.

Mr Hinch, a company director, of Orion Way, Basingstoke Magistrates' Court handed over to a police officer. He was remanded in custody until next Tuesday.

Dr Soares retains control of Socialists

Paris, April 13.—The Portuguese Socialist leader, Dr Américo Gomes, tonight claimed success in retaining control of his party, the country's largest opposition force.

The former prime minister called a news conference after partial results of election for a party congress next month indicated he would have the support of more than 70 per cent of the delegates.

His opponents had predicted leaving him as party secretary-general because of his prestige inside and outside the country. But they blamed him for losing two general elections and wanted to strip him of most of his power.

Dr Soares said his victory meant there would be a clarification of party policy which would exclude cooperation with the pro-Moscow Portuguese Communist Party.

He said the party's main aim would be to recapture moderate voters lost to the right over the past five years.

The Communist Party had openly supported the opponents of Dr Soares, who included more than half the 66 Socialist Members of Parliament.

The outcome of the power struggle within the Socialist Party is of vital importance for the ruling Democratic Alliance.

The Socialist Party of Senegal, Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, has indicated that it would like to run joint lists with the Socialists in next year's local elections.

Some left-wing opponents of Dr Soares in the party accuse him of planning to help the Democratic Alliance push through constitutional changes in exchange for the support of the right in the 1985 presidential elections. —Reuter.

Col Gaddafi proposes Mauritania merger with Sahara Republic

Paris, April 13.—Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, proposed today that Mauritania should merge with the republic proclaimed in the contested Western Sahara by the Polisario Front guerrillas, according to a report monitored here.

He made the proposal to Mr Sidi Ahmed Ould Boudia, the Mauritania Prime Minister, who ended a three-day visit to Libya today. Also at the meeting was Mr Muhammad Abdelaziz, Secretary General of Polisario.

The radio said Colonel Gaddafi, who has troops in Chad and has been accused of wanting to lead a giant trans-Saharan federation, had called for a "proclamation of union between Mauritania and the Sahara Republic."

The Polisario is fighting against Morocco to set up a Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony annexed by Morocco and Mauritania when Spain pulled out in 1975.

But after a military coup in its capital in 1978, Mauritania made peace with the Polisario in 1979 and withdrew from its portion of the territory, which Morocco then occupied as well.

The radio quoted Mr Ould Boudia as saying on leaving Tripoli that Colonel Gaddafi had promised him support to confront "the plots woven by the Moroccan regime." But he did not comment on the merger proposal.

Colonel Gaddafi had also suggested the formation of a pact with Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and the Sahara Republic as members, the radio added. But the nature of the pact was not made clear.

The colonel made his proposal in the name of the Steadfastness Front—other members are

Algeria, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization—of which Tripoli is at present chairman.

Also at the Tripoli meeting were Mr Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Movement, a coalition of leftist organizations, and Mr Ahmad al-Fihri, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, one of the hard-line Palestinian guerrilla groups.

The Libyan leader invited Mr Jumblatt's movement, Mauritania and the Saharan Republic to join the Steadfastness Front, the Libyan radio added. He also called for the "expulsion of the Sudanese regime from the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization" for having "recognized the Egyptian regime and thus the Zionist enemy."

Colonel Gaddafi's 12-year rule in Libya has been marked by several attempts at political unity with other Arab and African states, including Syria and Chad in the past.

None of the attempts has thus far borne fruit.

Mission to Morocco: The two leading officials of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) arrived here today for talks with King Hassan II on the Western Sahara conflict.

President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, the OAU chairman, and the organization's secretary-general, Mr Edem Kodjo, are to present the King with the official report of the mediation made last September by the OAU special committee on the Western Sahara.

These called for a ceasefire in the conflict by December, 1980—which did not take place—and OAU-United Nations referendum along the Saharan people to decide their future. —Agence France-Press.

Albanian rebuff enrages Belgrade

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade, April 13

Relations between Yugoslavia and Albania which have been improving steadily for a number of years are now being tested following the nationalist riots in the predominantly Albanian Kosovo autonomous region of Yugoslavia.

In an officially-inspired comment in the Albanian Communist Party newspaper the Government in Tirana explicitly supported the demands of the demonstrators for the region's transformation into a fully-fledged republic.

The Yugoslavs considered this amounted to a blatant interference in their internal affairs and, in the view of a high-ranking Albanian official of the region, it was a call to muddy, and an invitation to "hegemonistic forces" to meddle in Yugoslav affairs.

The Albanian newspaper comment, which is clearly expressing the views of the Albanian leader, Mr Enver Hoxha and has

the weight of an official government statement, described the demonstrators' demands for change in the status of the region as "legitimate."

It added that the ethnic Albanians, who number two million in Yugoslavia, have never been allowed to express themselves freely and therefore have the right to "free themselves from the tutelage of Serbia" and be granted the status of one of Yugoslavia's constituent republics.

The Albanian paper accused the Yugoslav authorities of attacking the demonstrators with tanks. It said the Yugoslav police had used "extreme brutality."

The attack from Tirana has provoked serious anger here where nationalists had emphasized earlier their belief that the Albanian government was not behind the demonstrations.

Last week Mr Stane Dolanc, a member of the Presidium, went out of his way to quote earlier statements from Tirana to the effect that Yugoslavia's

independence and territorial integrity were in the interests of Albania.

For a number of years and as recently as a year ago Mr Hoxha has repeatedly urged Albania's readiness to "fight together" with Yugoslavia against anyone who might endanger Yugoslavia's independence.

Mr Dolanc recalled this to emphasize the two countries' interdependence. He said a threat to Yugoslavia including the riots in Kosovo, would be damaging to Albania.

Schools reopen: Yugoslav officials said elementary school classes in Kosovo had reopened today after being closed since the disturbances. High school and university classes were expected to resume later. Many of the rioters were said to have been seen (AP reports from Belgrade).

Last week, authorities lifted a nighttime curfew but a ban on public gatherings is still in force.

Ministers meet to avert Canadian energy war

From John Best
Ottawa, April 13

Federal and Alberta cabinet ministers met in Winnipeg today in an attempt to stop an energy war developing.

The meeting between Mr Marc Lalonde, the Canadian Energy Minister, and Mr Merv Leitch, his Alberta counterpart, represents the first major effort at negotiations since Alberta began cutting its oil production six weeks ago.

That action resulted from the Federal Government's national energy programme (NEP), announced last autumn, which imposed substantial federal taxes on the oil and gas industry. About 85 per cent of all Canada's oil and gas comes from Alberta.

The programme not only imposed new taxes, boosting the federal share of revenues from the industry, but also failed to give Alberta what the province felt entitled to in the way of oil price increases.

The present federally-controlled Canadian price is \$17.75 (about 27¢) a barrel, less than half the world price. Under the energy programme this will rise to \$31 a barrel in 1984 but Alberta maintains that the increase should be greater.

The Federal Government keeps the Canadian price artificially low to give industry a competitive edge in world markets and also to help control inflation.

Alberta feels it is being cheated in the interests of consuming manufacturing plants principally located in Ontario. Its response six weeks ago was to cut oil production by 60,000 barrels a day. Two other 60,000 barrel reductions are scheduled for June 1 and September 1, giving a total reduction of 180,000 barrels a day or about 15 per cent.

Today's meeting on "neutral ground" in Winnipeg, which is in the province of Manitoba, was essentially exploratory aimed at establishing a dialogue and laying the groundwork for a negotiated settlement.

Before going in to the meeting Mr Lalonde told reporters not to expect any "big news" but said he hoped agreement could be reached at future meetings possibly involving Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and Mr Peter Lougheed, the Alberta Premier.

Today's meeting was scheduled to last one day but could continue longer.

Grenada accuses US of fixing five-nation boycott

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, April 13

Grenada, the tiny island state in the Caribbean, today stepped up its criticism of alleged American interference in its affairs, accusing Washington of an "outrageous, unseemly and vulgar" attempt "to crush and squeeze" its economic development at birth.

The broadside was delivered by Mr Bernard Coard, Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister, who is in Brussels for a two-day meeting of donor countries interested in helping to finance the building of a new international airport in Grenada.

The meeting opens tomorrow. Five EEC countries—West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland—were invited to attend, but they declined to come, arguing that they would be adequately represented by the European Commission.

It is no secret in diplomatic circles that the United States has made known to European governments its wish that they should refrain from giving aid to the airport project. The Americans dislike the left-wing regime in Grenada and its close relations with Cuba. They have suggested that the airport

could be used as a refuelling stop for the transport of Cuban troops to Africa.

Mr Coard told a press conference here that his government was "very disturbed by the very open and very vulgar attempt by the United States" to dissuade EEC countries from providing financial help.

He accused the Americans of "gross interference" in Grenada's internal affairs and its relationship with the EEC, which is governed by the Lome convention. "We believe that their behaviour raises a serious question about whether the EEC countries are going to allow their foreign policy to be dictated by the United States," he declared.

He said, he would be the response of EEC member-states to the report they would receive from the European Commission on this week's fund-raising meeting. This will show what determines foreign policy in Europe," he added.

Mr Coard described the military and security objections to the airport raised by the Americans as "nothing but a load of hogwash." It would not be a military base nor would it be used for military purposes.

Comoros fall prey to isolation complex

From Marie-Thérèse Delboulbes
Agence France-Press
Moroni, Comoros, April 13

Unloved and unused, ignored by the superpowers that pass on by, an out of the mainstream of the tourist trade of other Indian Ocean islands, the Comoros are falling prey to an isolation complex.

The balmy scent of the ylang ylang blossom in the evening air, the coconut palms arching languidly over the little creeks, their blue-green water contrasting with the black lava from the mist-wreathed Kartala volcano, make the Comoros a holiday postcard dream.

But this appearance of a soft life on the four islands of Great Comore, Anjouan, Moheli and "rebel" Mayotte, situated at the entrance to the Mozambique channel, is as misleading as that of the dormant volcano, which erupted in 1977.

The Comoros have a troubled image abroad resulting from the "dark period"—the regime of Ali Soleih—and the arrival of mercenaries, who overthrew the regime on May 13, 1978.

There is a disparity between the way in which we are described abroad and the reality here," Mr Ali Mrouddjae, the Foreign Minister, said.

Only last month there were rumours abroad of an attempted coup d'état. The Foreign Minister has denied them. Observers here, while not believing there was a real threat, recognize that the opposition is trying to destabilize the regime of President Ahmed Abdallah.

President Abdallah, the "father" of independence from France on July 6, 1975, was overthrown by Ali Soleih the next month. He was returned to power by mercenaries in May, 1978.

During the intervening years, a revolution upset the archipelago's traditional Islamic society. War was declared on feudal chiefs, power was put in the hands of youth for women, the traditional veil for women was abolished, officials were dismissed and national archives burnt.

Today the traditional leaders still fear the young who threaten the power and fortune of the extremes of the Soleih regime, remember only its positive aspects, according to one foreign national.

In February, subversive tape recordings and leaflets were seized from travellers. People, phier. The Voice of the People, appears almost monthly.

The opposition, which recruits among the numerous Comorian exiles in Kenya, Tanzania and France, is fragmented and unorganized. There are Marxists and men such as Said Ali Kemal, who resigned in July as Ambassador to France to form a National Council for Public Salvation.

After February's unseemly, notables from Great Comore and Anjouan went to declare their allegiance to President Abdallah, who customarily receives visitors in the afternoon under a mango tree.

Not that the President has anything to fear from his adversaries for the moment. He can count on a 300-strong presidential guard, officered by former mercenaries who have been dubbed "military advisers."

The term "mercenary" upsets Comorian leaders who were for a time ostracized by the Organization of African Unity.

"I don't know any African countries which do not have technical assistants to train the army," said Mr Mrouddjae, who pointed to the Cuban presence and Soviet and East German advisers in Angola or elsewhere.

Twenty-nine "advisers," 20 of them permanent, train and command the presidential

guard. Most of them are new to the islands and did not take part in the 1978 operation. Of the original force, some have fallen in love with the island, which still have a colonial air, and have settled here.

The presidential guard is more feared than the 700-strong French-officered Comorian Army, known as the Black Commandos because of their black uniforms.

But the real problems of the archipelago lie elsewhere: in its political stagnation, in the island of Mayotte which wants to remain French in its development, and in a rising population.

It is not clear how the Mayotte issue, an abiding relations with France, will be resolved. Comoros would like it solved. The French like an end to a situation that has embarrassed international forums.

The problem, for authorities, is what to do with the 50,000 people who have chosen to stay in France. Some, however, main aid donor to the island and provides about 100 ment workers, teachers, and doctors.



John Young (left) talks to Vice-President Bush from the shuttle. He told him: "The spaceship is performing beautifully."

Tiniest of space shuttle defects will be spotted

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A new network of optical tracking stations for taking photographs of spacecraft being introduced by the United States Department of Defence is being used to examine the heat shield on the belly of the Columbia space shuttle.

These instruments, operated by the North American Air Defence Command (Norad), can see objects smaller than two square inches in orbit which are further from earth than the shuttle.

Provided the clouds, which hampered photography earlier yesterday, clear away this equipment has the capability for seeing any gap in the mosaic of special six-inch square tiles forming the heat shield on Columbia. An elaborate web of radar and optical stations will carry out surveillance. It includes a number of

installations which each have two 40-inch cassegrain (reflecting) telescopes and a 15-inch instrument.

The heat shield of the shuttle has caused severe difficulties and it has been one of the major causes of the three-year delay in getting the vehicle into orbit. The special ceramic material used for the shield is made from a high purity silica glass that is processed to create a light substance resembling styrofoam. Any of the tiles can be heated to a bright red on one surface while remaining cold on the opposite side.

Unlike the thermal protection plate on the previous pear-shaped manned space capsules which burn away as the craft re-entered the atmosphere, the heat shield on the shuttle must stay intact for reuse. Yet some parts of the Columbia, particularly the belly and nose, may be exposed to temperatures of

up to 1600 degrees centigrade generated by friction on re-entering the atmosphere at 16,820 miles per hour.

The portions on which extra stress is expected from uneven hot spots, such as on the leading

edge of the wing, are reinforced with a strong form of carbon. Each of the 33,000 tiles is specially designed for its position on the orbiter and the components of this unusual jigsaw vary in size and density.

The Nasa plan for Columbia's landing in California today.

Height 138,700 ft. Speed 4,092 mph. San Luis Obispo. Height 107,100 ft. Speed 2,461 mph. Santa Barbara. Landing speed: 213 mph. Los Angeles.

President Reagan stays out of public eye

Washington, April 13.—President Ronald Reagan, out of the hospital, but under doctor's orders not to work in the Oval Office yet, is staying upstairs in the White House with no immediate plans for public appearances while he builds up his strength. Today he met his three chief assistants and received a written national security briefing, Mr Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary, said.

He also had separate meetings with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary, to hear reports on their recent overseas trips. Both meetings took place in the

living quarters on the second floor.

Mr Speakes said the President was not likely to make a radio speech on his economic proposals this week but might do so later.

As he recuperates at home from the bullet wound in his left lung Mr Reagan also may telephone members of Congress for a progress report on how his economic plan is faring.

Dr Daniel Ruge, the President's personal physician, said Mr Reagan was "up and about" this morning "and he is doing extremely well." He added: "He has been reading a lot and resting." —AP and UPI.

Briton loses all her money in Miami robbery

Miami, April 13.—A 75-year-old British woman who had saved for years for a Florida holiday was knocked down and robbed of \$1,636 (about £740) last night two hours after arriving from England.

As Mrs Clara Roberts and her daughter, Sheila Ann Boyd, left their hotel life two young men knocked down Mrs Roberts and escaped with her purse, which contained her money and a prescription for her heart condition. She was not injured.

On April 4 a family from Cornwall was terrorized and robbed in Miami. —UPI.

Leaders of Spain able to take trips abroad

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, April 13

Both King Juan Carlos and Senor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, will resume their normal schedules of visits abroad this month, apparently confident that there is no danger of a repetition of last February's attempted coup during their absences.

Senor Calvo Sotelo will pay a two-day official visit to West Germany beginning April 23, a date which may have been chosen on purpose since it comes exactly two months from the day on which rebel Civil Guard forces took the Government and the lower house of the Spanish Parliament as hostages. The king will fly to Rome for a three-day official visit on April 23.

Lieutenant-General Jose Gabeiras Montero, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will return from a trip to the United States next Wednesday. He left for Washington just before the arrival here last Wednesday of Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

Officials at the Defence Ministry were explained that General Gabeiras's trip to the United States was scheduled long in advance before the dates of Mr Haig's 18-hour visit to Spain were known.

While the journeys abroad of these three key figures are not concurrent, they are significant, since it is the first time each of them has left the country since the abortive uprising.

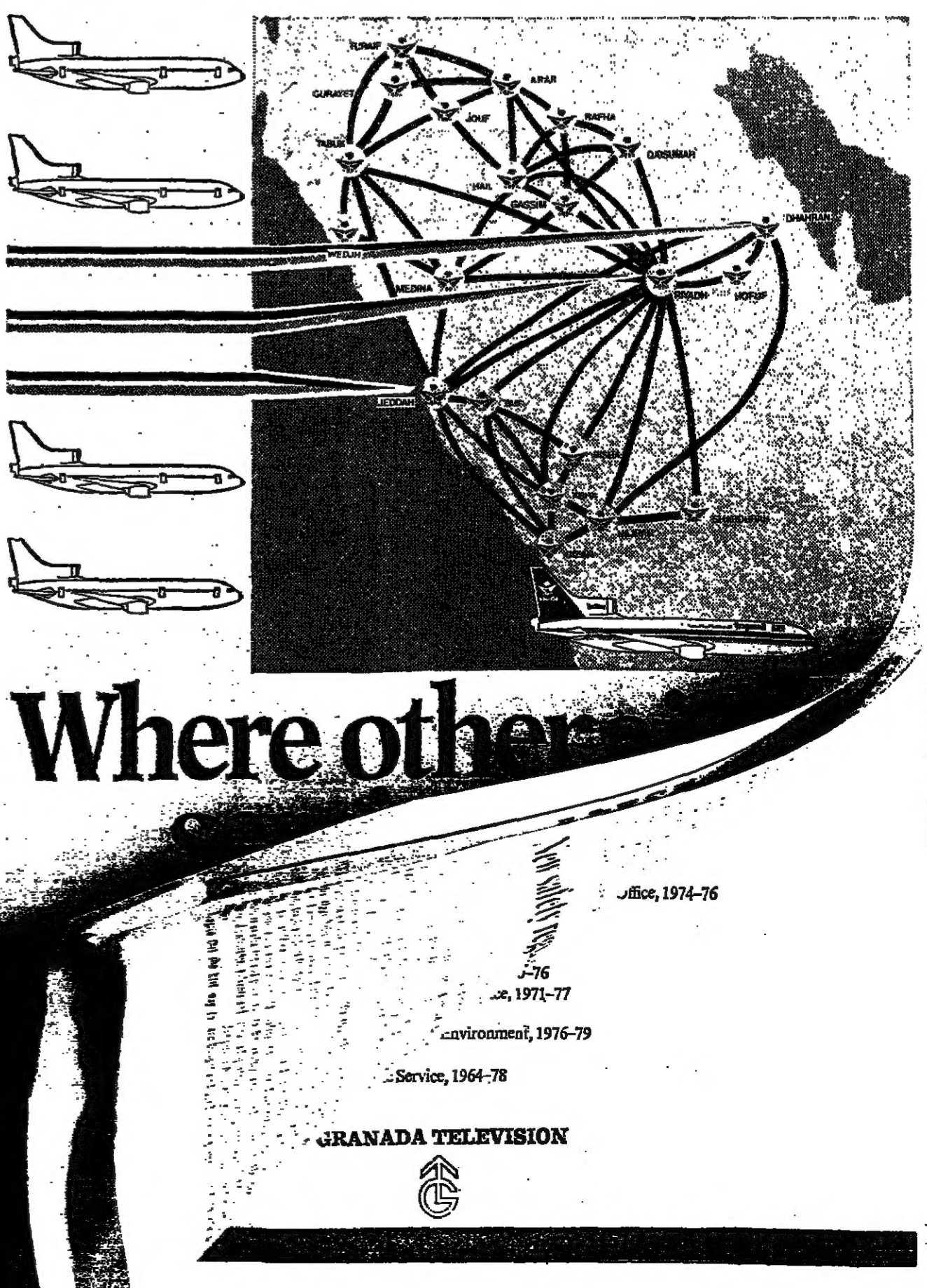
The Prime Minister's objective in Bonn, according to reliable sources in Madrid, is to convince the West German Government that there is no danger of a new coup and to seek German support for an acceleration of Spain's entry into the EEC.

Repercussions of the unsuccessful uprising are still being felt. An Army major in the Spanish coastal enclave of Ceuta in North Africa was placed under arrest for two weeks, according to the Madrid daily *Diario 16*, for writing an essay published by a Ceuta newspaper. In the essay he objected to a Catalan politician in comparison of Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, the officer who led the attack on the Parliament seven weeks ago, with Franco Villa.

Tension between right and left continues. A judge in the north-central city of Saragossa, ordered 11 lawyers to stand trial on charges of coercion and contempt of court after they accused the judge in writing of being tougher on left-wing offenders than on right-wingers.

Cholera kills 14

Jakarta, April 13.—Fourteen people were reported dead and about 100 others were in hospital after a cholera outbreak in Bandung, western Java, the Antara news agency said.



Poland's press warns leaders to begin reforms without delay

Warsaw, April 13.—Polish newspapers urged the Government today to make full use of the lull in strikes by showing that it could push through reforms without being driven.

Two leading newspapers, *Trybuna Ludu* and *Zycie Warszawy*, said many Poles believed some of the authorities were dilatory and acted only under coercion.

They said that after the Sejm (Parliament) call on Friday for a two-month strike-free period, the authorities must now prove that this was not the case.

"For some time we have observed the widespread declaration of noble intention coupled with universal paralysis of will," the *Government daily Zycie Warszawy* said.

"The authorities object that society is insufficiently disciplined... but society objects that the authorities are functioning sluggishly and conducting a skirt-the-issue policy," it added.

Zycie Warszawy said it was time to do something about Poland's almost catastrophic economy and that the much vaunted economic reform programme had so far failed to go beyond the discussion stage.

The newspaper also indicated that responsibility for the success of the 60-day strike moratorium rested ultimately on the ability of the authorities to act swiftly.

"No administrative barriers, even if sanctioned by the highest legal acts, will guarantee social peace. In this regard there is no substitute for wise decisions, backed by swift and effective action," it said.

"Words alone are not enough," the *Communist Party daily*

Moscow suspicious of trends in Warsaw

From Denis Taylor
Moscow, April 13
The degree of Soviet concern about pluralist tendencies within the Polish Communist Party is shown with exceptional sharpness in an article published in *Pravda* today. The report quotes allegations by Polish workers of pressure being brought on them by Solidarity, the independent trade union movement.

Western diplomatic sources in Moscow see the item in the Soviet Party newspaper as significant evidence of Russian preoccupation with reformist trends in the ruling Polish United Workers' Party as the party congress approaches in July. One diplomat saw the *Pravda* report as a sign of "shifting the focus away from Solidarity".

Mr Oleg Loson, the *Pravda* correspondent, said he had talked to Mr Zdzislaw Lomowski, first secretary of the party committee at the Warel electronics plant, and other workers there.

It was alleged that when a representative of Solidarity was asked about cooperation with fellow workers in the official trade union branch, he answered: "We do not cooperate and we do not need to cooperate." At the same time, the official branch was striving for cooperation.

Referring to strike alerts, another worker, who had been 22 years at the plant, said there were shortages of basic products in the shops, but he asked if strikes would make things any better. He claimed that Solidarity was putting great psychological pressure on the workers.

Pravda said that the Warel communists were unanimously against anything which threatened the unity and solidarity of the Polish Workers' Party and weakened its political force and ideological influence.

Some people in the party would like to use discussions to drag in views alien to a Marxist-Leninist party, hiding their apostasy with a luxuriant bouquet of pseudo-party phrases about ideological pluralism and partnership of different political forces, the newspaper said.

All this only played into the hands of the openly anti-socialist forces waging war on the Polish Workers' Party and its leading role in society. The party had to resist any actions weakening its ranks and resolutely defend socialism.

The *Pravda* article came after remarks by Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, in Prague last week, which referred to the defence of socialism in Poland by Polish communists and true patriots, but which did not mention the current party and government leadership in Warsaw.



Mr Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Soviet Politburo, addresses the East German Communist Party congress in East Berlin.

Comradely words from French and Italians

Berlin, April 13.—Italian and French Communist Party delegates spoke out strongly today at the East German party congress against outside interference in Poland's affairs.

Signor Giovanni Cervetti and M. Gaston Plissonnier, senior officials in the Italian and French parties, demanded that the Warsaw leadership be left to solve Poland's difficulties.

Signor Cervetti said Italian Communists took "a favourable view of the present process of renewal in Poland and of the work done by the Polish comrades".

He added: "We want them to be able to solve and overcome the crisis and tensions by political means alone and without outside interference."

The Italian party was committed to the view that "the respect of independence and sovereignty of every state and of every people is an unconditional principle for every socialist force, for every progressive force, and also a basic condition for the continuation of détente."

M. Plissonnier, a member of the French Communist Politburo, took a similar line. "The French Communist Party is deeply convinced it is the affair of the Polish party, the Government and the Polish people to solve their problems through the realization of economic, social and democratic reforms," he said.

The French media were bringing almost daily reports of an impending Soviet intervention in Poland but the French party was convinced these were part of an anti-communist propaganda campaign, he added.

The Italian and French delegates were the first speakers at the three-day-old conference to issue implicit warnings against the idea of a Soviet bloc intervention in Poland.

Senior East German communist officials have avoided direct references to Poland in speeches to the congress in the past two days. But Herr Egon Krenz, leader of the East German Communist youth movement, today grouped "anti-communists, revisionists and renegades" as enemies of true socialism.

"Renegades" is a term coined recently by East German ideologists as an allusion to leading Polish communist officials calling for a renewed political system more open and liberal than orthodox Soviet-style communism.—Reuter.

intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968. But the French party has made little comment on the unrest in Poland and the threat of a Soviet military move.

Senior East German communist officials have avoided direct references to Poland in speeches to the congress in the past two days. But Herr Egon Krenz, leader of the East German Communist youth movement, today grouped "anti-communists, revisionists and renegades" as enemies of true socialism.

"Renegades" is a term coined recently by East German ideologists as an allusion to leading Polish communist officials calling for a renewed political system more open and liberal than orthodox Soviet-style communism.—Reuter.

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Rudolf Hess's son denied visit to father in hospital

Berlin, April 13.—The son of Rudolf Hess was refused permission today to visit his father in the British military hospital where he is being treated for pneumonia. A British spokesman for the four powers that run the Spandau war crimes prison refused to give a reason for the ban.

Herr Wolf Rüdiger Hess, aged 43, a Munich architect, said the Americans, British and French were willing to let him in. It was the Russians who blocked the visit. "The Soviet representative said he would have to get new instructions from Moscow," he said.

He also said that the Russians took the view that Herr Hess is allowed only one visit a month and that his wife, Ilse, has already applied to visit him on April 21, five days

before his eighty-seventh birthday.

The British warden denied that Herr Hess is near to death, the son said. "I replied I had no way of knowing this if I could not see my father".

Yesterday, he accused the four powers of concealing the true state of his father's health.

Herr Hess, who was Hitler's deputy, was taken to the hospital last Tuesday from the prison near by where he is serving a life term imposed by the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal in 1946.

Armed British troops guarded the hospital because of apparent concern that neo-Nazis would try to free Herr Hess. Witnesses said they saw six soldiers at the main entrance and about 14 others patrolling the area.—UPI.

Neo-fascists kill Brescia bomb man in jail yard

Novara, Italy, April 13.—Ermano Buzzi, a neo-fascist extremist condemned to life in prison for planning a bomb that killed eight people at a left-wing rally in 1974, was strangled in the exercise yard of a maximum security prison today.

Buzzi was convicted of planting a bomb in a street rubbish basket during an anti-fascist rally in the northern city of Brescia.

Police said Buzzi was killed by two well-known neo-fascists serving life sentences for the killing of a Rome judge and two policemen, respectively.

Buzzi was killed in the exercise yard while it was being used by 11 right-wing extremists. The two men who confessed to the crime told police that Buzzi had been "condemned" and declared themselves "prisoners of war".—UPI.

Coolness in Pretoria to Reagan envoy

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, April 13
Dr Chester Crocker, the Reagan Administration's Africa expert, is due to arrive at Waterkloof air base, near Pretoria, tomorrow on the sixth of his 10-nation African shuttle at approximately the same time as the space shuttle Columbia will be making its reentry into the atmosphere.

It is perhaps fortuitous that Columbia will be sealing whatever thunder may attach itself to Dr Crocker's arrival in South Africa to gain support for the Reagan plan for a Namibia settlement.

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, reacted with distinct coolness today when asked if he would meet Dr Crocker. "I do not know if there are suggestions that I meet him. And even if there were preparations being made for me to meet him I do not think this is the time and place to disclose them," he said at a press conference.

Dr Crocker will certainly meet Mr P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, but the Prime Minister appears more concerned about the April 29 general election than international affairs.

Last week, in apparent reaction to Dr Crocker's remarks in Nairobi that the United States would seek a new relationship with South Africa to lead the country "away from apartheid", the Prime Minister told an election meeting in Cape Town: "We will not allow others to prescribe to us, not today or in the future."

"The only people who will decide that are the South African voters through polls and in the South African Parliament."

The South African authorities have made it clear that they regard his visit as a very low key affair. No arrangements have been made for any press conference or briefings and in fact Mr P. W. Botha, without success, urged Dr Crocker to

stay away from South Africa until after the April 29 poll.

It is clear though that Washington wants the tour to be completed and weighed up before the resumption of the United Nations Security Council debate on Namibia on April 21.

Africans' concern: Dr Crocker acknowledged at the end of his visit to Zimbabwe today that black leaders had expressed "some concern" to him over the new Administration's Southern Africa policy (Stephen Taylor writes from Salisbury).

He left for Mozambique this afternoon after meeting officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a one-hour session with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

A constant theme in the talks so far, in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and here, has been the view of black leaders that the White House has adopted a warmer approach to South Africa since President Reagan's election.

Transkei attempts to control its news

From Ray Kennedy,
Johannesburg, April 13
A Bill making it illegal for anyone to publish anything about the Transkei Government without ministerial approval was approved today by the Parliament of South Africa's first independent Bantustan in Umhlanga capital.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which requires only the signature of Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, the President, and to be gazetted officially to become law, applies also to any news about the activities of a government department or institution.

The Bill will also force people who publish such information to disclose the source of information.

Contravention of the Bill will be punished by prison sentences of up to three years or fines up to 3,000 (£1,700) and in any prosecution it will be presumed that the accused knew the information disclosed concerned the Bill unless the contrary is proved.

Journalists operating in the Transkei have already been subjected to repeated harassment and several have been detained or expelled. South African newspapers circulating in the territory—such as the *East London Daily Dispatch* which was banned for a period—are finding it difficult to attract black journalists of the required calibre to cover Transkei news.

The Bill was introduced by Mr T. L. Lelake, Minister of Justice and a former leading member of the militant Pan Africanist Congress (Pac). He said that previously confidential official information had been leaked to the public and in some cases the information has been distorted or incorrect.

Transkei, with a population of 1,700,000, was granted self-rule by South Africa in October, 1976. Its independence is recognized only by South Africa and the other independent homelands of Bophuthatswana and Venda.

The new committee, from which President Habib Bourguiba will choose a Politburo, includes the members of the Government. Mr Mzili formed a year ago as well as most members of the former Politburo.—Agence France-Presse.

Tunisian party picks leaders

Tunis, April 13.—A special congress of the ruling Destour Socialist Party yesterday elected a new 30-member Central Committee, in what was seen here as a vote of confidence in the programme of liberalization pursued by Mr Muhammad Mzili, the Prime Minister.

The new committee, from which President Habib Bourguiba will choose a Politburo, includes the members of the Government. Mr Mzili formed a year ago as well as most members of the former Politburo.—Agence France-Presse.

napf

May 7th, 8th, 9th, Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

TALKING ABOUT PENSIONS...



THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, will be the opening speaker at the Conference on Thursday 7th May and will discuss the role played by the pension fund movement in the economy.



THE PARLIAMENTARY Under Secretary of State for Social Security, Mrs Lynda Chalker, will wind up the Conference on Saturday 9th May and will speak on Resources in Later Life.



SIR HAROLD WILSON will be the special lunchtime guest speaker on Friday 8th May and can be expected to follow up the report by his Committee on the Functioning of Financial Institutions published last year.



THE CHAIRMAN of the Occupational Pensions Board, Lord Brimclow, will speak on the Board's report on protection of Occupational Pension Rights and the expectations of those who change employment.

The National Association of Pension Funds' annual conference is wide ranging. Concurrent sessions will include a debate on the question of increases to pensions and deferred pensions in the private sector. There will be a session on pre-retirement counselling. There will be discussion on Member Participation in the running of funds; and a debate on the maintenance of the real value of pensions in retirement. Problems on investment will be considered — with sessions on the current and future role of stockbrokers and on the desirability or otherwise of the issue of index linked bonds. Leaders in the pensions movement — representing all disciplines — will take part in all these discussions. There will be a separate session on the problem of communications by and within the pensions movement led by the Director General. And, during the conference, awards will be made to those pension funds who have been most successful in communicating to their members — the Golden Pen Awards.

For registration and details please write to Heather Webster, National Association of Pension Funds, Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 0XF. Telephone: 01-681 2017.

مكتبة من الأصل

Turks seek execution for 97 Kurd separatists

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, April 13—Prosecutors at the martial law tribunal in Diyarbakir, in south-eastern Turkey, today asked for death sentences against 97 members of the Kurdish separatist Kurdistan Liberation Party.

Out of 2,331 alleged militants of the group now under arrest, only 447 went on trial today, including three former members of Parliament, one a former cabinet member, who face prison sentences for supplying "moral and material support" to the separatists.

In their opening statement, the two prosecutors said that the group, known as Apocu from a familiar abbreviation of the name of its leader, Mr Abdullah Ocalan, had murdered 243 people, including 30 security troops, since 1978.

They added that 27 members of the group had been killed in clashes with police in their effort to "form armed gangs in order to set up a communist state on lands which they planned to separate forcefully from the sovereignty of the Turkish state".

Minor incidents took place in the court inside the Diyarbakir garrison on this first day of the trial which was taken up with the formality of determining the prisoners' identities.

About 30 of the accused refused to identify themselves in a sign of protest against prison conditions. The judge said they could air their views on the matter at a later stage of the trial, but the men insisted and many were removed from the court.

The 207-page opening statement read in parts like a horror story. It claimed that one militant, acting on orders, killed his own mother and brother because they were against the group's activities.

It also alleged that militants set up "popular tribunals" to trial their "enemies" and "defectors", torturing them by giving them electric shocks, hanging them up by their feet and mutilating them, slicing off noses and ears, before killing them.

The trial is expected to be a drawn-out affair, with new suits being filed gradually against the remaining 1,884 alleged militants under arrest.

About 1,000 more people are being sought in connection with the group's activities, including Mr Ocalan, who has always directed his followers from abroad, well-informed sources in Ankara reported.

Communist party expels its founder

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, April 13—Mr Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders and a former chairman of the Communist Party of India was expelled from the party today.

His expulsion on the unanimous vote of the executive was the inevitable outcome of his publicly expressed contempt for the leadership, his strong criticism of the party line and his support for Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

His refusal to stop supporting Mrs Gandhi led to his removal from the party chairmanship last year. His statements and his open identification with a splinter group led by his son, Mr Dange, to the party's expulsion from "anti-party activities".

Mr Dange, who is 81, considered Mrs Gandhi as "a progressive bourgeois, patriotic, anti-imperialist and anti-fascist" at the same time he has complained that the Communist Party of India "has failed to identify itself with the people's aspirations".

Pilgrims die in bus crash

Delhi, April 13—A chartered bus carrying Hindu pilgrims crashed and caught fire in Southern India last night, killing 46 people and injuring 19, the press trust of India said today.

The bus travelling to a remote Hindu temple in Andhra Pradesh, crashed through guard rails on a sharp curve, tumbled 20 feet into a ravine and burst into flames—UPI.

Glider collide

Johannesburg, April 13—A South African glider pilot was killed and another, a young woman, parachuted to safety when their gliders collided above the black township of Soweto, near here yesterday.

PLO denounces Haig policy and seeks friendship of Moscow

From Tewfik Mishlawi
Beirut, April 13—A leading Palestinian official denounced America's Middle East policy, called for closer ties with the Soviet bloc and urged European countries to act independently to search for peace in the Middle East.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the Palestine National Council (parliament in exile), now meeting in Damascus, that the United States had "adopted a hostile and offensive policy in the Middle East" with a view to expanding its influence and exploiting the resources of the region.

A political affairs committee of the council today began its debate on Mr Kaddoumi's 100-page political report, in which he discussed various aspects of PLO political activity since the last council session about two years ago. Radical Palestinian leaders, while endorsing Mr Kaddoumi's report in general, are demanding "practical action" to counter Washington's policies.

The PLO official, who is equivalent to a Palestinian foreign minister, condemned the recent tour of the Middle East by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, and rejected Mr Haig's emphasis on the Soviet Union as the source of danger to Middle East security.

Mr Kaddoumi accused the Secretary of State of seeking to establish "military blocks and

aggressive bases to confront any alleged Soviet threat to the region, while ignoring the fact that Israeli occupation of Palestine and American support to it are the source of all dangers to peace and security in the area".

The Palestinians, Mr Kaddoumi added, have no alternative but to strengthen their relations with their true friends, the socialist bloc led by the Soviet Union.

Turning to Western Europe, Mr Kaddoumi noted a "positive change" toward a better understanding of the Palestinian problem. But this was not enough. He called for additional efforts to "develop" the position of the EEC countries, but did not expect an early peace initiative from them. He advised the European Community states that if they wanted their initiative on the Middle East problem to succeed, "They must steer clear of America's domination".

In his speech opening the council session on Saturday, President Hafiz al-Assad of Syria made no reference to King Hussein, despite the continuing war of words between Syria and Jordan. This was interpreted as a gesture by the Syrian leader to endorse the PLO chairman, Mr Yassir Arafat, who prefers to keep his bridges open with the Jordanian monarch.

Senate inquiry: A United States Senate delegation arrived in Tel Aviv today from Saudi Arabia to examine Israeli objections to the supply of advanced American arms to the Saudis.—Reuter.

Syrians mopping up around encircled Lebanese town

Beirut, April 13—Syrian troops today carried out mopping-up operations against right-wing militia around the besieged eastern Lebanese town of Zable. The Syrian Government simultaneously rejected French-led moves to set up a new international force to police a ceasefire in the Lebanese authorities request.

Syrian forces have cut off Zable, and are fighting Palestinian forces in the village of Qaa al-Rim, three miles north.

The officially-controlled Syrian press today strongly criticised the latest French moves, describing them as interference in Syrian-Lebanese affairs.

France has said it is ready

to play a leading role in setting up a buffer force. Two days ago Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said in Paris that the United States and France were taking coordinated diplomatic action to help to end the bloodshed.

Mr Camille Chamoun, head of the right-wing Lebanese front alliance, today discussed the crisis with President Elias Sarkis and suggested talks with the Syrians as the way to settle Lebanon's problems.

The Phalangists, who dominate the Lebanese Front, have so far rejected direct talks with the Syrians, who they have accused of attempting creeping annexation of the country.—Reuter.

Liberian military prepare return to civilian rule

Monrovia, April 13—A year after seizing power, Liberia's military Government has announced that it is forming a commission to draft a constitution as a prelude to a return to civilian rule.

Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the head of state, made the announcement in a speech to mark the anniversary of the coup in which President William Tolbert was assassinated. But Sergeant Doe, aged 29, who staged the coup with 16 other enlisted men, did not say when military rule would end.

The old constitution was suspended after the coup. The 25-member commission will be headed by Mr Amos Sawyer, head of the political science department at Liberia University.

Sergeant Doe said the members were chosen to take into account "regional balance, technical competence and commitment to the course of change in

the interest of the Liberian masses".

He also announced that 19 political prisoners were being released. Mr Chea Chesepo, the Justice Minister, told reporters the prisoners included Mr Joseph Gbarches and Mr Allan Williams, two former defence ministers.

He said 24 political prisoners remained in jail including Mr Adolphus Tolbert, elder son of the late President.

Sergeant Doe paid tribute to the help his Government was getting from the United States, its biggest aid supplier, which gave \$23.85m (about £10.8m) in 1980 and has approved \$35m this year. American officials say the final amount could be greater.

The United States links were symbolised by the presence here since last Friday of about 100 American Green Beret commandos for 30 days' training with the Liberian Army.—Reuter.

Hope of end to Gujarat caste conflict

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, April 13

The caste conflict in the western Indian state of Gujarat, which has cost more than 40 lives, appeared to have been resolved today in an agreement between the agitators and the state authorities. The junior doctors, who have been in the forefront of trouble during the past three months, agreed to stop demonstrations and other actions.

The authorities hope that the curfew in Gujarat which has involved rioting, arson, murder and beatings, will now subside. But the bitterness created during the trouble will take some time to heal.

The conflict had its roots in caste prejudice and perceptions of changing fortunes among the various castes. Postgraduate medical students started demonstrating against the reservation system through which India attempts to redress economic and social

wrongs arising from the caste system.

Since independence there have been quotas of jobs and college places reserved for people of recognized tribes and of lower castes like *harijans* (untouchables).

In Gujarat, resentment erupted because higher caste students felt that lower caste people were being treated too favourably. They said that deserving students could not get places in colleges. Their demonstrations demanding the ending of the quota system led directly to inter-caste murders and the burning of homes. Police had on several occasions to resort to baton charges, teargas and shooting to break up mobs. The state government invoked the law providing for detention without trial.

Meanwhile the quota system was vigorously defended by

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, and the Indian Parliament, who made it plain they were committed to the quota system as part of a framework of equality and justice in a society traditionally ordered on caste lines.

In the face of the government's determination not to be browbeaten, the students and their supporters saw that their agitation would run out of steam. They had planned to start today an indefinite fast, an action hardly likely to worry the authorities, but instead had talks with the state government.

As part of the deal the junior doctors agreed to stop the agitation that has disrupted life in the state, has spread fear and bitterness, and has closed the colleges. The authorities agreed to release arrested students and to improve conditions in colleges and increase students' stipends.

Searching Indian questions for Mrs Thatcher

By Lucy Hodges

When Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, arrives in India today, she is likely to encounter protests about harassment of Asians at Heathrow Airport, virginity testing (now stopped) and the way in which families are kept apart by immigration controls. Relations between Britain and India are at an all-time low point. Indian newspaper coverage of Britain concentrates on reports about racial incidents and the Nationality Bill. Some are hysterical, but they reflect a widespread feeling, based on what many people believe to be true.

When customs officers at Heathrow detained an Indian couple for two years last year, the *Hindustan Times* described the incident as scandalous.

Perhaps without an empire and far-flung outposts to lord

over, the British have reverted to what they basically are—a small people with small minds inhabiting a small island in the Atlantic.

What extent are these complaints justified, it is asked. The foregoing example does not seem that serious, of more face of it, but others are more worrying and help to explain the particular sensitivity of the Indian sub-continent at the moment.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Asians wanting to come here are treated differently from whites. People from India and Pakistan are refused entry to Britain at a much higher rate than say, North Americans or Scandinavians.

In 1979, 12 out of every 1,000 Pakistanis were denied entry and six out of every 1,000 Indians. This contrasts with a

figure of 0.2 for Canadian and Australian visitors (many more of whom were applying to visit this country).

In the same year, 1,074 Indians were held at the Harmondsworth detention centre, compared with 16 Canadians and 14 Australians. Many are detained because they arrive without prior entry clearance, which is not officially required by Indian visitors and about which most white visitors have never heard.

However, if Asians try to get entry clearance in their own countries, it is not always easy. Mrs Kashibhai Manibhai Patel, a widow of 71, who was a former Ugandan Asian, is a citizen of the United Kingdom and, although she has been refused entry clearance to visit her six children, 22 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren living here.

She applied to visit this country in August 1979 for her grand-daughter's wedding and was turned down on the grounds that she might stay here. The same thing happened again last year.

Mrs Thatcher is likely to be lobbied strongly about the special voucher scheme; former East African Asians, who are British passport holders, have to wait more than five-and-a-half years to enter Britain because the quota for them is set at about 500 a year.

It is suspected that it is deliberately being kept low in India, but high in other parts of the world, such as East Africa, where Asians remain. By resuffling the quota to allow the 5,000 people waiting in India to come here, the Prime Minister could generate some much-needed good will.



Indonesian dance for the Prince of Wales during a stroll through Canberra.

Russell-style tribunal on Rhine's filth

By Tony Samstag

The concept of an unsupervised environment as a basic human right is among the more striking implications of a small but determined movement among European conservationists to convene a Russell-style tribunal next year on pollution of the Rhine.

The tribunal, to be held in Rotterdam, would collect data on pollution in the Rhine catchment area, describe its effects and outline a programme of legislation (or more efficient enforcement of existing legislation) to punish polluters.

"As many of the polluting industries as possible will be identified and subsequently called to account", according to a statement by the Dutch Society for the Preservation of the Waddenzee.

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has in its time called tribunals on American war crimes in Vietnam, human rights in Latin America and Germany, and the treatment of Indians in North, South and Central America.

A similar approach to environmental issues was first suggested at a meeting of European environmentalists in Paris last month, where delegates from such action groups as Greenpeace argued that pollution could be as much a violation of human rights

Agencies in Karamoja fear rain could hinder relief

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, April 13

Torrential rain has cut many roads in the Karamoja district of north-east Uganda, and aid agencies are trying to plan an emergency airlift to deliver food to the worst-hit areas, where thousands of people depend on famine relief supplies.

The interruption of supplies is creating a potentially dangerous situation for aid workers in remote parts of Karamoja. Many say they run the risk of being attacked by tribesmen if the food runs out.

The Karamojos are traditionally warriors, and it is impossible to explain to them that they can't have the food they have come to rely on, an Australian volunteer said.

The rains have been earlier and heavier than for many

years. They have washed away bridges, and curved roads into a sea of mud.

United Nations officials in Kampala say large quantities of food are still on the way to Karamoja, and if these get through there will be no immediate problem, but some areas are already cut off, and a dry spell of several days is needed to move vehicles from the near by towns of Soroti and Mbale.

Most of the 300,000 people in Karamoja have depended on relief food for months, because their cattle and goats, normally their main support, have died from drought or have been lost in tribal raids.

Efforts are being made to encourage the Karamojos to plant sorghum and millet, the only crops that grow in their acid lands.

Hospital has no drugs

Children play among Chad war victims

From Ian Murray
Njamena

The rifles are propped like a tripod in the shade of the tree by the central hospital entrance. Sprawled in the dust beside them are guards with the distinctive red flashes on their shoulders of Chad's elite military police.

They argue briefly against the idea of a tour but then give in. One of them puts on his red beret, brushes the dust off his shirt and throws his rifle over his shoulder, holding it casually by the barrel like a toy.

He does not know the way round the hospital he guards, but the wing where the war wounded lay can be easily found by the stench and the clattering.

The stench, a strange mixture of stale disinfectant and excrement, hangs so heavy in the air that the sun that it is almost tangible. The clattering, like the noise of a child turned loose on a set of saucers, comes from the iron beds at the patients' twist and turn in their discomfort and pain.

It is a modern enough hospital, clad in red brick with big outside verandahs. Doubtless a few years ago it was a pride of Njamena. But neglect, dirt and war have turned each little ward into a scene worthy of Hogarth.

Flies gorge themselves on rotting, uneaten and inedible food that adds its own pungency to the atmosphere. The mattresses are usually bare and stained with dried blood. The few covers left are filthy scraps of grey and maroon blanket.

The fans in the ceiling do not turn or cheer, some with metal splinters plowing shattered limbs, some with hideous oozing wounds now four months old.

And in the midst of all this are the patients, some with no arms or feet, some with metal splinters plowing shattered limbs, some with hideous oozing wounds now four months old.

Not all are war victims but are victims of what has become everyday life in Chad. There is a teenager who sits on a foul mattress with blood-soaked bandages covering both legs and one arm, a look of anger and shock on his young face. A man who refused to pay him

a taxi fare had flung petrol over him and set him alight before walking off.

Nursing is almost non-existent and seven of the men's wives sleep on mats by the bedside carrying away bedpans and bringing in food and water. A few even have their tiny children there, playing happily about on the revolting floor, their faces as out of place as a fairy's in a nightmare.

There are few drugs. Some say they receive a pill perhaps twice a week. All see their doctor at most once a week. A temperature chart at the foot of most beds is the only sign of regular attention. The patients keep their own medical records, eagerly and proudly pulling out their X-rays to show the bullet many still carry in them.

It is now four months since fighting stopped and the 250 or so remaining in hospital are all that are left there of the 9,000 originally wounded in the war. Despite the appalling conditions some are so crippled they do not want to leave. Life inside the filth is a terrible struggle in Chad. For the handicapped it is well nigh impossible.

A small team of French doctors cross the river from the Cameroons each day to operate on emergencies, but they lack the resources or security to provide thorough after-care. There is only one working Chad doctor.

The few Chad nurses on the staff are all tired and disillusioned. None has been paid since before Christmas and one admits frankly that he has stolen surgical alcohol from the hospital's meagre supplies in order to raise a little money to feed his own family.

In another area the only two nurses on duty were both asleep despite the sobs of a woman patient desperately calling out for water. The casualty department stores boast four bandages and a half empty bottle of aspirin.

On the way back to the front, the young military policeman is silent and pensive. With one hand he holds his red beret over his nose to keep out the stench. With the other he holds his rifle almost distastefully away from him. Perhaps he has realized his gun is not a toy.

Mr Shcharansky loses his visiting rights for a year

Moscow, April 13—Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, a Jewish dissident who is serving a sentence in a Urals labour camp, has been put in solitary confinement and denied visiting rights during 1981, his mother said.

In a statement handed to Western correspondents, Mrs Ida Milgrom said camp authorities had sentenced her son to six months' solitary confinement in January, but did not say why.

Mr Shcharansky, who is 32,

was sentenced in 1978 to three years' imprisonment and 10 years in a labour camp on charges of espionage. His trial aroused widespread protest in the West.

"This is the moral and physical destruction of a person. A tragic end is unavoidable in the conditions in which Anatoly finds himself and this, it seems, is the main aim of the organs of power", Mrs Milgrom said.—Reuter.

More flights from Heathrow to Nigeria than any other airline.

FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	
WT 801	LONDON DAILY 22.00	KANO NEXT DAY 03.35	
	LONDON DAILY 22.00	LAGOS NEXT DAY 06.00	
WT 803	LONDON SUN 10.00	PORT HARCOURT SUN 16.20	
WT 805	LONDON SAT 11.00	LAGOS SAT 17.20	
WT 809	LONDON WED 21.30	KANO THURS 03.05	
		PORT HARCOURT THURS 05.30	

Timetable effective 30 March 1981. Subject to alteration without notice. For reservations see your IATA travel agent or Nigeria Airways, 12 Conduit Street, London W1. Telephone: 01-629 3717.



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THE ARTS

A want of intonation

Allegri Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Hilary Finch

Just as singers can take in pira-
tically from the particular quali-
ties of the players and their
playing, so string players can,
and many do, take examples
from singers. Had the Allegri
Quartet, in their contribution to
Saturday to the Wigmore Hall's
excellent Dvorak and Grieg
series, thought more vocally,
their playing might well have
avoided those negative elements
which ran through and enervated
their performance of all three works.

The humid evening cannot
have helped the temperamental
instruments. But, despite much
tuning and brow-mopping
between movements, intonation
was constantly unsure, particularly
in the first violin, and
most painfully so in the first
movement of the Dvorak
quartet in D minor, op. 34, and
the Berg Lyric Suite, with its
superficial sonorities. Here im-
precise intonation, particularly
the pianissimo phrases and
sustained chords of the Adagio
passionately and the wide leaps
of the opening of the last move-
ment, so often sapped the
music's emotional life.

An absence of sense of shape
and direction of the melodic
line dimmed the opening "sun-
set" of Haydn's Quartet op. 76
no. 4; but it was the raucous
melodious tone of the playing,
the lack of colouring of the
notes, that grated most con-
spicuously. The finale of the
Lyric Suite, for instance, specifies
"secco" (dry) but it has been
heard with such edginess would
have been transformed into
melodiousness.

Anticipatory flicks of sound
particularly noticeable in the
Lyric Suite, impeded ensemble
at the beginning of the slow move-
ment of the Dvorak I heard
quite disconnected notes
in the opening close-harmony
chord and an insuffi-
cient selection of voices (essen-
tially above all in the Berg) all
created a lack of concentrated
staying. Too often the inner
parts seemed pushed aside, a
reiter play since Prunella
and the most musical. Her last
year's bars in the Berg
retained the taste of the
young.

It was a combination of all
these factors, but above all a
lack of true focusing of en-
ergy that made the Berg, a work
in which atmosphere and
expression seem to form the
very structure of the music,
ultimately so disappointing.

There's no mistaking a Giacometti

Giacometti
Serpentine GalleryGiacometti: Paintings
Thomas Gibson
Fine ArtSpotlight:
Four Centuries
of Ballet Costume
Victoria and Albert
Museum

It is curious how we always
seem to have difficulties dealing
with families of artists. Some-
times the very idea of several
painters, or actors, or composers
with the same surname sets up
conflicts, as though, in a world
which would have room and to
spare for so many talented in-
dividuals under different names,
we have room for only one
major figure at a time with the
same name. If reference is
made to "Giacometti", your
court, it would hardly ever
occur to anyone—outside Swit-
zerland, at least—to ask which
one. And yet at least two re-
lated figures in art: his father Gio-
vanni was a brilliant Post-
Impressionist, unrepresented
unfortunately in the Royal
Academy's Post-Impressionism
show last year, and his half-
brother Augustus was a very early
abstractionist in the lyrical/
musical free-form style unrepre-
sented unfortunately at the
Tate's Abstraction show last
year. No doubt their unmi-
llarily shared something to do
with their being Swiss, and
therefore not obviously belong-
ing to any mainstream of
modern art. But it has much
more to do, I am sure, with the
fact that the younger Giacom-
metti appropriated their name
for his exclusive use.

Alberto never seems to have
had too much problem with his
Swissness. Unlike his painter-
relatives, he was not long con-
tent to live and work in Swit-
zerland: indeed, from the age
of 21 (in 1922) he lived almost
all his life in Paris, and, if any
national identity at all was
attributed to him, it was most
likely to be French. He be-
came well known first in Paris,
then elsewhere, and achieved a
particularly high reputation in
Britain, where, rather surpris-

ingly, he must have been since
the war easily the most famous
and familiar contemporary
foreign sculptor. Maybe there
was something self-deceiving
about his emaciated, knobly,
stick-like figures which had a
special appeal to the British
temperament: you were in no
doubt that he was serious, you
could not accuse him of suc-
cumbing to the blandishments
of the senses (his sculptures
must be among the least touch-
able or tempting to touch) and
at least he was ferociously con-
sistent.

Just how consistent we can
gauge from the smallish yet re-
markably comprehensive show
of his work at the Serpentine
until May 17, along with a com-
plementary show of his paint-
ings at Thomas Gibson Fine
Art, 9a New Bond Street, until
May 1. What the sculptures at
the Serpentine show above all
is the progressive, quite volun-
tary limitation of his means
and purposes which took
place between 1926, the date of
Spoon-Woman, the first bronze
in the collection, and 1947, the
date of the first "typical Giacom-
metti" stick-figure, also a
standing woman. The trouble is,
the earlier works are much
the more exciting: one has a
real feeling of risk, the possi-
bility of going any number of
ways under the influence of
cubism, surrealism or primitive
art. Later, though the brand-
image is clearly visible and one
would never mistake a Giacom-
metti for anyone else, the im-
pression is unavoidable of a
stylistic sausage-machine into
which all kinds of material can
be fed and come out looking
exactly the same.

This is why I can never under-
stand Giacometti's biographers
making so much point of exactly
when he gave up working from
life or took it up again. It seems
not to make a jot of difference
either way, so oppressive does
his stylistic formula become. I
have to admit that there is a
certain theatrical kind of
mystery about his groups of am-
biguously related figures like
The Square (1949) or The
Glade (1950), and that some of
his rather desolate later painted
landscapes have a wan fascina-
tion. But the portraits, painted
or sculpted, become very moti-
vationally and profoundly un-
settling. Whether of how the sit-
ters really look or of what kind
of person they are. But go back
to the early sculptures, such as
the Waiting Head of 1928, an
almost abstract which might be



by Moore or Hepworth, or the
very funny and precisely titled
Disagreeable Object of 1931, a
tilted wooden piece with a horn-
spike coming out of the top and
two little stunted legs, or the
elegant, classic Walking Woman
of 1932, a slim nymphet body
with no head or arms, and you
will feel a really powerful sculp-
tural imagination at work. Sad
that later on form should so
suddenly and completely de-
generate into formula.

In a sense costume-designing
is a species of sculptural
thought. And there are those
among the great couturiers who
cannot draw to save their lives,
but work it all out on the spot
by draping and gathering and
snapping and tucking actually
on the model—for all the world
like a sculptor who can func-
tion only when he is able to
come to grips with the raw
material, the living stone or
clay. But this is not invariably



the case with costume de-
signers, particularly for the
theatre. Inigo Jones, for in-
stance, obviously regarded
himself as a practical costume
designer as well as all sorts of
other things, and naturally, if
he was designing the whole
visual side of a masque, in-
cluded costumes along with the
rest. But the way artists cele-
brated in other media have
gone about it in the twentieth
century is more self-conscious.

Frequently, snobbery seems
to have played as important a
part as anything else. Diag-
nosing, for all his famous in-
stinct for the sort of artistic
chemistry which could bring
the most unlikely collaborators
successfully together to pro-
duce something wholly new,
was clearly influenced by
snobbish considerations when
he brought in the famous
painters of his day to design
ballers for him, and many of

Giacometti's Annette assise
of 1958 (far left); and
costumed designed by Miro
for Tamar: Toumanova in
Jeux d'enfants (1932)

misleading in the long run)
to judge from specially re-
suscitated versions in all the
wrong fabrics, as was the case
with the famous New York
show of movie costumes a few
years ago. The climax of this
exhibition, after we have
passed through a quick con-
cept of design history, is the
large hall where 77 original cos-
tumes are displayed. Though
there is a group of amazingly
well-preserved eighteenth-cen-
tury Italian stage costumes,
most of them come, naturally,
from the twentieth century,
right through to only yesterday
tone of Andy Klunder's cos-
tumes for the Royal Ballet's
Gloria last year is the most
recent.

Of course, the originals, seen
in cold blood rather than in-
vested with the glamour of
theatrical distance and stage
lighting, may well prove rather
disappointing, whatever the in-
terest in seeing at close quarters
exactly how illusion is created.
The exhibition's organizers have
sought to counterbalance this
by arranging the presentation in
thoroughly theatrical terms: an
ever-changing light-show which
has a complete computerized
cycle of about half an hour. This
is certainly irritating to the
serious student, and no doubt to
some less serious, since it means
that, as soon as you have found
something you want to take a
long, hard look at, all the lights
go out, or the light from one
side fades while that from the
other glows, and you have to
make the most of the brief lucid
intervals to read the captions
properly. On the other hand,
this form of dramatized presen-
tation does effectively stop us
from noting too destructively
the fading of the finery, and
gives us some inkling of what
the costumes would have looked
like in action.

As a bonus, it is interesting
to compare, as the show enables
us frequently to do, the finished
costume with the original de-
sign, and sometimes, as in the
case of Miro's costume for Tou-
manova as the top in Jeux
d'enfants, with a photograph
of the costume worn as well. It
is a show anyone can enjoy on
the most superficial level. Those
who want to get something more
out of it will find they have to
work quite hard, but that the
effort of running backwards and
forwards from room to room or
waiting until the best light
comes back will be amply re-
warded.

John Russell Taylor

BBCSO/Wright
Albert Hall/Radio 3City of London
Sinfonia/Hickox
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

The BBC's Berlioz festival came
to its climax on Sunday with a
performance of the Requiem so
stark and powerful as to make
it seem wrong that the audience
should be seated in comfort
looking on: we ought to have
been trembling on our knees.
Brian Wright, the conductor,
kept a close control on his vast
forces in a successful effort to
make everything strange,
sombre and severe. There was
no wasted drama, no undue
flamboyance. The brass groups
spread about the place made
their solemn entries with more
implacable force than splen-
dour, and the BBC Symphony
Chorus, raised to a higher
power by members of other
choirs, sang with the monolithic
assent of a populace at prayer.
Stuart Burrows, the single
soloist retained by Berlioz for
a single movement, quite
properly made his line as plain
and unoperatic as he could,
emphasizing in this one depart-
ure from the norm how the
work is really concerned with
humanity in the mass. Simi-
larly, Mr Wright never let the
orchestra exceed its rightful
role of supporting, echoing and
punctuating the voices, even
though he showed magnificently
what an awesome blend of tonal
colour the score is capable of.
Altogether it was a perform-
ance that dispensed with every-
thing suave in phrasing, exuber-
ance in rhythm or grandiose
in effect. It was a communal
act of grim purpose, a Requiem
for the living and fearful.

From public ceremonial to
private meditation: on Friday
in the Queen Elizabeth Hall the
huge output of Georg Telemann
was sampled for his passion
oratorio Der Tod Jesu, pre-
sented in what must have been
his British premiere by Richard
Hickox with his own choir and
the City of London Sinfonia.

Given the subject matter this
was not entirely a happy
enterprise. The interest is
drawn from the choruses and
chorales, and focused instead
on elaborate recitatives and
arias for the soloists while the
text, in the tradition of Bach's
cantatas rather than his
passions, concentrates on per-
sonal responses to Christ's death,
not biblical narrative.

As a result the work loses
Bach's generosity and often
becomes maudlin or even offen-
sive in its flagellatory gloazing
as when the contralto luxuriates
in jabbed string chords on the
tipping of nails through "nervae
and vein and bone".

Book review

Sparks Fly Upward
By Stewart Granger

(Granada, £7.95)

Though *The Man in Grey* and
Caravan and *Madonna of the
Seven Moons* made him one of
the most popular film stars in
Britain, Stewart Granger could
still complain to a friend that
such "junk" was wasting his
talent and getting him despised
by his fellow actors. It's better
than digging ditches, mate",
came the reply, "don't ever
forget that."

Granger was born James
Stewart but they had a James
Stewart in Hollywood so he
had to change. His career was
like that; he was never, despite
a run of box office success,
his own master. The reader
sees why: contract was the
price of fame for actors not
quite strong or big enough to
tell J. Arthur Rank, or Howard
Hughes, or Louis B. Mayer to
go to hell. Granger never made
things comfortable for his em-
ployers and was one of the few
to take on Howard Hughes in
the courts and win. But he
could not buck the studio sys-
tem and when the system itself
began to crumble, Granger was
a fading star.

He was, by his own account,

a reluctant star, anyway.
Plucked from the worthy ob-
scurety of Birmingham Rep and
an Old Vic season under Tyrone
Guthrie, he found himself,
rather to his surprise, with top
billing opposite Phyllis Calvert
and Margaret Lockwood, and
the other Gainsborough ladies.
But he got typecast as a
swashbuckler, a sort of English
Douglas Fairbanks, and found
the constant press interviews
and personal appearances hard
to sustain. Always the way he
fell in love with a succession
of beautiful women but his
public image had to be main-
tained. Rank, the Methodist,
sternly rebuked him for his
liaison with the young Jean
Simmons, unaware that Granger
had already divorced his wife.
In Hollywood, it was much
the same story. When Granger
and Simmons did eventually
marry, the ceremony was
bizarrely stage managed by
Howard Hughes in order to
keep the press away. Granger
drank too much champagne and
threw up. As he wryly remarks:
"I just didn't feel married".
He found himself yoked once
more to a string of mediocre
costume pictures and seemed
always to miss out on the big
opportunities—the new Carol
Reed film, the latest John

Huston, the re-make of *A Star
is Born* (he had a row with the
director, Cukor, and walked
out) and *Ben Hur*. Instead he
got *King Solomon's Mines*,
Scaramouche, and *Ben-
Hur*. Even then, Granger
was not always first choice, as
the director of *King Solomon's
Mines*, Compton Bennett, rac-
tlessly made clear: "I have to
tell you right now that I wanted
Errol Flynn for the part".

Such anecdotes are the stuff
of Granger's memoirs, an ample
400-page volume. He knows how
to tell a good story, often
against himself, and despite the
over-employment of four letter
words the book has a ring of
authenticity that puts it well
above the average for its genre.
The narrative ends, not in-
apparently, in 1960, when Granger
just made his last big Holly-
wood film, *North to Alaska*,
and the marriage to Jean
Simmons was over. The rest
would have been anticlimax;
or perhaps, in a way, it was
all anticlimax. But as the man
said, it was better than digging
ditches, and one of the good
things about this cheerfully un-
inhibited book is that it aims
no dirt and bears no grudges.

Peter Waymark

Uneven response to Walton

Philharmonia/Muti
Festival Hall

Max Harrison

There always was a southern,
one might say specifically Medi-
terranean, aspect to Sir William
Walton's early music, such as
Siesta, and so it was interesting
to go to the Festival Hall on
Sunday to discover what Italian
artists would make of his
valuable of his early works. It
is an ambiguous score as well as
an ambitious score and, after the
precedents of Bach's *Viola
Sonata* of a few years before,

places its scherzo-like move-
ment in the middle, its slow
movement last.

In the event, Riccardo Muti,
conducting the Philharmonia
Orchestra, and Bruno Giuranna,
the soloist, made a distinctly
uneven response, but were best
in the rhapsodic opening move-
ment. Here, indeed, Mr Muti
adjusted the tempo of the music's
inmate ebb and flow, to its fit-
ful way of breathing and to the
bitter-sweet false relations in its
harmony.

Mr Giuranna's tone is strong
yet not particularly large, dark
but with plenty of apparent
sinew, and so it was disappoint-
ing that he did not give a more
positive lead in the scherzo.
His material, however, is
knocked off-centre by jazz-like

rhythmic distortions and acrid
self-mockery, and it was pre-
cisely these "quirks" that
seemed to disconcert both con-
ductor and soloist.

The whole should have been
far more aggressive and brass
and woodwind in particular
ought to have bitten much
harder. Better contrast was
made with the finale, which is
the longest and most closely
argued of Walton's three move-
ments, where the music often
years over a stalking bassline.
The climax, before the quiet
coda wherein lies the composi-
tion's heart, went especially
well, and the coda itself is one
of those very rare passages that
in nearly all circumstances pro-
vide an affecting experience.
But essentially we had listened

emotional flagwagging of three
concert studies by Liszt, where
a certain stiffness in phrasing
exposed the shallowness of pur-
pose, and pressure at the upper
end of the keyboard produced a
touch of tonal distortion not
apparent in Bartók.

Except for a hurried pace
that ran away with aspects of
detail in the finale of Schubert's
A minor Sonata, D845, the
pianist's feeling for the nature
of this work in vivid articula-
tion and subtle shading brought
much pleasure. The variations
of the second movement were
almost Haydnian in their
classical poise, whereas the slow
movement in Haydn's *F Major
Sonata* of 1773 was contrastingly
Schubertian in a performance
of stylistic polish and engaging
delight.

Imogen Cooper
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Noel Goodwin

A chronological progress from
Haydn to Bartók, by way of
Schubert and Liszt, is no doubt
the expected sequence for a re-
cital programme, as Imogen
Cooper performed it at her con-
cert in the South Bank Piano
Series on Sunday afternoon.
Yet I wonder if our younger
recitalists might not give more
thought to changing this kind
of structure, now that we have
begun to accept that historical
progression is not necessarily
the most musically rewarding.

In this instance an exchange
of Haydn to the end and Bartók
to the start would have been
fascinating in the demands of
attention, and release on the
listener, and in relation to
neighbouring works in the two
halves of the programme. The
early 14 Bagatelles of Bartók,
with their almost pioneering
excursions into bitonality, con-
stitute a point of reference,
both forward and back, in the
history of piano music, as they
also encompass a variety of key-
board effects.

Miss Cooper's account of them
was both studious in character
and proficient in technique,
with particular pleasure in the
rubaio pieces and those of a
more capricious nature. As it
was, they had a welcome clean-
sling effect after the turgid

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

GRANADA TELEVISION PRESENTS

HIGH OFFICE

Three Case Studies of
Ministers and Civil Servants Under Pressure

Tonight at 10.30: A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

A nuclear power station goes wrong. What does the Minister tell the House?
How does the Cabinet prepare for the worst? With public fear inflamed by
the accident, can the Government proceed with its plans for further nuclear
stations?

Tomorrow at 10.30: SPENDING PUBLIC MONEY

The Minister is determined to carry out his party commitment. The financial
advisers say the project is not viable. Should the Minister back down? What
happens if he asks the Prime Minister to remove his Permanent Secretary?
How is the decision prepared for Cabinet?

Thursday at 10.30: A FOREIGN AFFAIR

How far does the Government help a brutal dictator? His trade with Britain
is valuable. He wants help setting up a corrupt deal with a British company.
He wants a Royal visit. How far do Ministers and officials go to obtain his
business?

ITV NETWORK

Those taking part include:

Joel Barnett MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 1974-79
Tom Cautcott, Principal Finance Officer, Department of Environment, 1973-76
Lord Croham, Head of the Home Civil Service, 1974-77
Sir Roy Deaman, Second Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office, 1975-77
Bernard Donoghue, Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister, 1974-79
Lord Greenhill, Head of the Diplomatic Service, 1969-73
Roy Hattersley MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1974-76
Sir Geoffrey Jackson, HM Ambassador to Uruguay, 1969-72
Sir Richard Marsh, Minister of Power, 1966-68
Stanley Orme MP, Shadow Industry Secretary
Sir Anthony Part, Permanent Secretary, Industry, 1970-76
William Plowden, Under-Secretary, Cabinet Office, 1971-77
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The rebels out to win with guns and a prayer

Trevor Fishlock, in the first of three articles on the guerrilla war in Afghanistan, reports from inside the Mujahidin stronghold of Torabara

The blackened rubble of Torabara war camp bears witness to its importance as a Mujahidin base. Russian gunships have bombed and rocketed its many times; the doctor is still swabbing stinging iodine on shrapnel gashes after the last raid, but the guerrillas are grinning and their black and white flag flies jauntily, a sort of thumb nose. The Russians have failed to blast them from their mountain crevices and Mujahidin confidence, vigour and capability are growing.

After 12 days in Afghanistan, including three among the 200 Mujahidin lodged in this hide-out above the roaring Agam river, I left with a clear impression of a guerrilla force increasingly well organized, armed and supplied.

In this area at least the traditional picture of yelling motley bands of wild and undisciplined tribesmen is no longer accurate. Fierceness, ruthlessness and devotion to fighting remain their unaltered stock in trade. But to these qualities have been grafted a strong command structure and the sense of order and purpose.

The Mujahidin in Nangahar province have not only consolidated their area of control by driving government sympathizers out. They believe they are getting the enemy's measure and their good morale derives from the feeling that strength is growing in their slowness.

Torabara is the headquarters of one of the new breed of mountain chiefs of Afghanistan. Abdul Khayum is a thoughtful and courteous man, a geography teacher, aged 30, who has exchanged his Jalalabad classroom for a 2,000ft eyrie, and his books for bandoliers, a Soviet Kalashnikov automatic

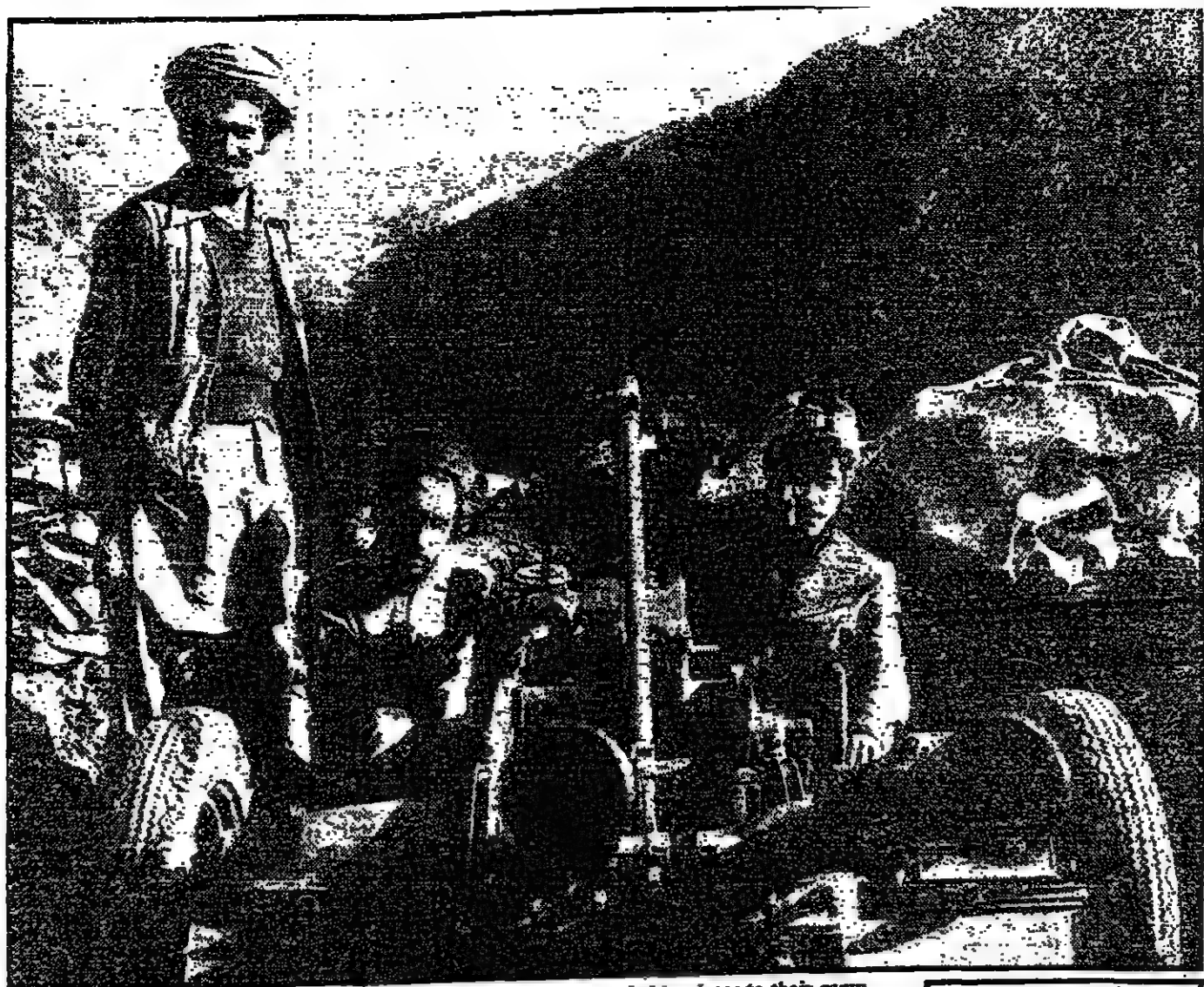
rifle and a belt with a couple of full 30-round magazines stuck in it. Abdul Khayum is a province commander. From Torabara he plans and directs attacks on Russian and Afghan army positions throughout Nangahar province, and especially in the city of Jalalabad, 32 miles to the north, the scene of constant fighting.

There are four major commanders under him, and each of these heads about a dozen groups of about 30 men who have their own sub-commanders. The relationship between commanders and men is easy and informal, but the leaders have genuine authority. Many of them are former teachers and count former students among their men.

A typical group going out on a raid has, as I saw, about 15 Kalashnikovs, a light machine gun on a tripod, an assortment of rifles, full ammunition pouches and belts, and one or two Soviet shoulder rocket-propelled grenade launchers, with youths, like powder monkeys, carrying the grenades.

All the men here are Nangahar men, fighting on their home ground and for it. They spend most of their time in the province and when they go to Pakistan it is usually to visit their families who are refugees.

Abdul Khayum is a prudent man. "This is going to be a long war and we have to concentrate on building our reserves of weapons and ammunition. We need some means of bringing down the helicopters, more bullets and more medical supplies. These things will come in time. In 15 months since the Russians came we have grown much stronger and we have the advantage of fighting on our own soil. We will grow still stronger."



Mujahidin guerrillas with a two-barrelled 20 millimetre cannon carried in pieces to their camp.

His prime means of waging war is to harass government troops and installations by commando raids, and to ambush lorries and troop carriers. The Mujahidin always try to retrieve weapons and ammunition during their attacks.

"The hope in the long term is a Kalashnikov for every man", Abdul Khayum said.

The Mujahidin have sympathizers in the demoralized and depleted Afghan army who are conduits for arms, and especially for ammunition. Sometimes they are given, sometimes sold for up to 50 pence a Kalashnikov round. Deserting soldiers frequently give their guns to the Mujahidin before heading for Pakistan, or they simply throw in their lot with the rebels. A number of men showed me their army identity cards.

A few months ago a young Afghan army officer, Nagib Ullah, who had been supplying arms to the Mujahidin, drove out of Jalalabad at the wheel of an armoured troop carrier. It now lies wrecked in a gully some miles from Torabara, and the raffish Nagib Ullah, who looks like a young Errol Flynn,

is now a Mujahidin group commander. The guerrillas have no radio system, which is probably to their advantage, and operate without maps; they know their land too well to need them. Abdul Khayum receives reports in writing and sends messengers with his orders.

There are no women in Torabara. It is not a village in the usual sense, but a base where fighting men group, prepare and rest after attacks. Their needs are eminently simple and their monotonous diet consists of flat, hard wheat bread baked on iron dishes, a sort of spiced, sprinkled with the juice of bitter oranges, and sometimes the luxury of a potato or an egg. Their most important requirement for ammunition is apart from ammunition, is green and black tea and the sugar which is their main energy source.

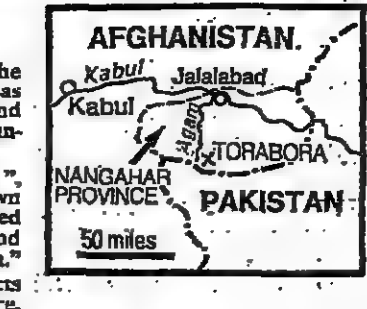
On my way in to Torabara, after a three day march over the mountains from Pakistan, the Mujahidin supply column I was with, had to skirt a vil-

lage a few miles down the Agam river because it was being shelled by tanks and pounded by helicopter gunships.

"That is my village", Abdul Khayum said. "My own house and garden was smashed a year ago and my wife and children escaped to Pakistan."

Torabara's location protects it from tank or artillery fire, but helicopters can still get into the gorge to wreck the stronghold's scattered mud and stone buildings. The guerrillas had three Russian 20 millimetre machine guns sited in the hillsides to fight these attacks. And a few days ago they installed two brand new twin barrelled 20 millimetre cannons which they humped up the gorge in pieces.

"They came from Jalalabad", Abdul Khayum said cryptically. "I shall go on addressing them by the name under which I first met them) and a vanilla ice."



Mujahidin here. It is part of the basis of their belief that they will win in the end, and an important contribution to the high spirits which characterize Torabara's community and the groups I met on the plains to the north.

But also important is their faith. The five times a day ritual of prayer is observed by the majority of the men. They finger their prayer beads as lovingly as they stroke their well-cared-for guns. It often seems that their prayers have become an assertion of their will to resist. A young man stripping off his bandolier and laying down his rifle before saying his prayers at sunset said "We pray, we win."

Bernard Levin

A fond pip pip to my priggish friends

I suppose I ought to ennoy the food prigs once more before I go. I have been back to Pêre Bise, and on the same trip I visited the legendary Girardet for the first time, and on top of that discovered Chez Fie, of which I had never even heard. So at the prigs will kindly finish their baked beans, and my gastronomic and professional pen friend will pour out a glass of something pleasant and settle down to enjoy himself, you shall hear.

Business took me to Montreux which was in itself a nostalgic journey, for it was the first place I went to on my very first visit abroad, more decades ago than I care to remember. (I can even remember the name of the hotel I stayed at on that occasion: the Bonivard). And just along the road from Montreux, in a suburb of Lausanne called Crissier, there stands the restaurant of Frédy Girardet, of whom I have heard many good judges say that it can compare with the best in France: a large cism. You can indeed eat well in Switzerland, and I often have (at the Veldner Keller in Zürich, for instance, the Euler in Basel, and Chesa Veglia in St Moritz), but a comparison with the best in France is another matter, and I have long felt the need to judge for myself.

So I did; but the night before I lunched chez Girardet. I went into Vevey to try Chez Pierre, which I had found in a little booklet called *La route Suisse des plaisirs de la table* (if the publishers of it who seem to constitute a kind of club rather like the organization of Relais de Campagne restaurants, are reading this, I would be grateful if they would send me an up-to-date

copy). There is a brasserie downstairs, and a tiny restaurant up; up I went.

I began with the *foie gras chaud aux raisins*, poached in a lovely truffled sauce which I mopped up with about three-quarters of a loaf of the wickedly delicious home-baked dark bread Pierre Bèthas provides. (The pips had not been removed from the grapes. I didn't mind, indeed it was nice to have something which crunched amid the smoothness, but I feel obliged to mention it thus, as it is the kind of item that particularly upsets the prigs). Hesitating over the next course, I took M Bèthas's advice, and had the *poussin aux morilles*, nor did I regret it, for it was buried beneath a huge mound of the delicious little crinkly mushrooms, and the bird was as tender as whipped cream. Three or four cheeses later, I took a *mélange de five minuscule sorbets*; I foolishly forgot to note them, and can only remember the lemon and the passion fruit.

I drank Swiss throughout, of course, a nice crisp Aigle with the *foie gras* and a Dèzeyle with the bird; I am always pleasantly surprised by Swiss wine, and wish saw more of it. I went to bed well pleased with life, and reflecting that with the memory of Chez Pierre under my belt, I was well equipped in case I was disappointed at Girardet.

O, but I wasn't! It is beautifully and tastefully decorated, and as soon as I sat down I realized why it is necessary to book there a month in advance: there is room for only 44 diners. Lucky 44, and lucky I to be one of them, for the meal which

followed fully lived up to the most extravagant claims made for M Girardet's cooking. Having done so well with M Bèthas's *foie gras*, I decided to begin with the Girardet version in which it is poached in wine vinegar with walnut oil added, and to go on with *La côtelette de pigeon aux choux verts*, but the head waiter suggested that I might like to take a demi-portion of the *foie gras* and follow it by another entrée. To this wise proposal I naturally assented with alacrity, and settled for lobster, which came with a sauce of langoustines, and slices from a truffle that must have been the size of a football.

The whole proceedings, I should mention, were preceded by a wedge of tarte, a variation on *pissaladière*, and what with that and the *foie gras* (the vinegar setting off the richness of the meat in a most notable manner) and the lobster (fresh as though it had been caught in Lac Léman that very morning) my appetite was quite whetted for the pigeon. It came wrapped in the inner leaves of the choux vert—an odd combination on paper, but the vegetable's mildness was a fine foil for the strong meat of the pigeon. I had been drinking Krug as an aperitif, and went on with it up to the pigeon, with which I drank a good powerful Dôle, also very suitable for the gamy little bird.

Girardet's cheese trolley is a noble sight, so lavish that it includes three *mi-doux* and *doux*. I had the middle one, together with a rich Vacherin, a Tomme Vaudoise, and a couple of local *chèvres*, and by the time I had finished I was seriously doubting whether I could manage more than another couple of

courses. Fortunately, only two more were necessary; first, a delicious *millefeuille*, reminiscent in its lightness of the desserts of M Ménager, the maître-pâtissier who runs the *Hôtelier du Moulin de Maine-Brun* at Angoulême, and then Girardet's selection of sorbets, which includes grapefruit and tea—the last so unexpected that for the life of me I could not put the name on the taste, and had to ask. The whole meal was perfect, and perfectly balanced; *vaut le voyage*.

I did not feel like much dinner that night, so I spent the evening thinking about the morrow and Pêre Bise. The morrow dawned sunny, and got sunnier as I approached; when I arrived, the lake was sparkling, a handsome swan floated majestically at the end of the quay, and the air was changed; Madame's smile was as welcoming as ever, and soon after I had dispatched the *parfait de foie d'oie* I was listening to the sound of the *meunière* butter bubbling on my *omble chevalier*, that rare fish, like the most delicately pink-fleshed trout, that is said to be found nowhere but in Lake Geneva and Lake Annecy. But hadn't changed, either, but tarragon being out of season, I couldn't have my usual *poularde braisée à la crème d'estragon*; instead, I had, I suppose, a *poularde* of a hundredweight or thereabouts, and readily succumbed to the suggestion of the other half when I had dispatched the first lot along with some rice and a lightly-dressed lettuce salad. (Old man Bise used personally to pinch the bones of every chicken admitted to his kitchen, rejecting *sans phrases* any with even a hint of toughness. I have no doubt the process is still being followed today).

Only three cheeses, for I knew what was coming, and knew also that justice not only had to be done, but had to be manifestly seen to be done, which also accounted for the fact that I confined myself, to some strawberries, some Chinese gooseberries (you and the Trade Descriptions Act can call them *Kiwifruit* if you like, but I shall go on addressing them by the name under which I first met them) and a vanilla ice.

And then, to finish, the grandest of all the *grande spécialités* of that beloved maison: the *marjolaine*, a gâteau that looks like a brick and melts in the mouth like spun sugar, its quality never diminished by the twentieth part of a hair's breadth in the 25 years I have been going there.

I had been drinking Sancerre right up to the chicken, with which I planned to drink a half-bottle of 1970 Montrose, but there were no halves left, and—true to my policy of moderation at tables—I felt that a whole bottle at that point might be overdoing things. So I accepted the suggestion of a wine I had never even heard of, with a name—Convent des Jacobins—like a donkish joke. You couldn't mistake it for a grand one, of course, but it was full of character, and the half-bottle was just enough for the chicken and the cheese.

I took my coffee outside in the sunshine, and did not think of the prigs at all, though I raised my *armagnac* to the Professor. But I didn't feel like much dinner that night, either.

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LONDON DIARY

Please someone, come and take a shine to me

Where have all the window cleaners gone? It is four years since an eager washer with ladder and chamois called at my house, promising to return every month to keep the daylight flowing in. I have not seen him or any of his like since, and I know I am not alone in finding them a remarkably elusive brotherhood of men.

You would think that in these times of high unemployment and the wholesale shedding of factory jobs, a cleaning ground would be the ideal business for a redundant man to start up. Minimal capital will provide you with ladder, leathers and a bicycle, and a plastic bucket costs only a fraction of the quantity of Best London bluster it will hold. So where are they all?

I know where one has gone. Jim Cook, who works for a London office window cleaning firm, is in New York; this week cleaning windows of the Empire State Building, hanging by a mere canvas belt at a terrifying

height above Fifth Avenue. Cook won the doubtful expenses-paid privilege by entering a competition on the label of a vodka bottle. I can only think he demolished most of the contents before setting off, which particular dream he would like to come true.

Cook, who used to clean the topmost windows of the Post Office Tower before they closed the restaurant, told me he would not care to be a self-employed domestic window cleaner in England. People do not want their windows cleaned when it is raining, which it does a great deal, so there is money to be made only in fine weather.

And householders never seem to be in when the window cleaner calls. The trouble and strife of trying to collect the money afterwards, according to Cook, tends to negate all the attractions of the job. Like freedom, fresh air, and all those other little bonuses that George Formby used to sing about.

Milkmen, as I reported the other day, have the same problems, which is one reason why doorstep milk deliveries are on the decline in some areas. Meanwhile I have to do the

windows myself, enduring white knuckles, vertigo, paralysing fear and greasy streaks; and that is only on the ground floor. I wish someone down the road would start up one of those small businesses which Mrs Thatcher seems to believe are the answer to industrial redundancy. It would provide work, and save me from a broken neck.

Great escapist

I detect a considerable revival of interest in the works of Doris Fyfe, the mannered, witty escapist novelist who is usually associated with the twenties but who in fact died only in 1960.

Fyfe plan to reissue three of the *Berry* and *Co* novels this summer, and BBC Television is considering another dramatized series. Six of the original Fyfe titles are still in print, and continue to sell well.

But the best news for Fyfe enthusiasts is that the first thorough biography of this shadowy and often maligned figure is to appear next year. The book, by Jack Smithers, was to have been published by Cassell, but fell victim to that house's recent decision to aban-



"Nigel says that in time they'll be able to detect race riots from outer space."

don almost its entire general publishing list. The manuscript has been rescued by Hodder and Stoughton, who hope to publish it next February. Little is known about Fyfe, except that he was really a

barrier named C. W. Mercer, lived in France until chased out by the Germans in 1940, and spent most of the rest of his life in Rhodesia, where he was commander in the army. He wrote his first short story in 1911 and maintained a substantial output until two years before his death.

"Fyfe still has a tremendous public", Smithers told me. His style is very Harrow-and-Oxford. Shakespeare-and-water, but he wrote excellent, if pedantic, English, and he was a thundering good storyteller." Smithers has tracked down many of Fyfe's close associates, including his bank manager; by coincidence Smithers's daughter was born in Fyfe's former house at Walmers, Kent, now a nursing home.

Hidden plot

Wild woodland 15 minutes' walk from King's Cross station? Well, something like it, anyway, has come to light after lying hidden for years.

The triangular plot of just over an acre near Thornhill Square, N1, has been left undisturbed and untended since it fell into neglect as an ornamental garden soon after its enclosure in the 1850s. There is no public access into it, and the only means of entry is through the houses backing on to it.

It has mature chestnut, lime, ash and plane; elm went with the disease. There are saplings, scrub and undergrowth, and fewer broken bottles, old beds, and tips of rubble than you would expect. Jays have been sighted, and it is a haunt of Barnsbury's owls.

The people whose houses back on to it have never really had the right to enter it, and they don't much, though they kept chickens there during the war. Islington council bought it in 1973 for purposes now abandoned, and is now considering its sale for private housing. The surrounding residents unhappy at the prospect, have formed a Barnsbury Wood Cooperative for its preservation.

They make the rather grand claim that it is "an established but neglected ecological park". The word "ecology" is a weapon of modern manufacture much employed in the warfare of planning controls. It means in this case that the schoolchildren of Islington would not have to go all the way

to Highgate cemetery to be shown what nature is like if left to itself.

Flying on a Pan-American Boeing 747 last week, I was disturbed by an advertising slogan on the inside of the aircraft door, just above the emergency escape chute container, which declared cheerily: "So hello to a brand new world."

Pray, sirs...

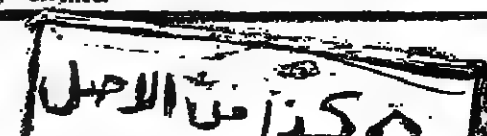
Representatives of the Jewish community, in their first formal discussion with the Church of England, have complained that the new Anglican Alternative Service Book contains more than a hint of antisemitism. It comes in the third Collect for use on Good Friday, which seeks God's mercy on the Jews and asks that they be cured of "ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for your word".

Canon Peter Schneider, an Anglican participant in the meeting, is now asking for it to be withdrawn in favour of something that cannot give offence.

The Roman Catholic Church agreed several years ago to rid its public prayers, particularly those on Good Friday, of such phrases as "the perfidious Jews". It is all the more surprising, therefore, that this Anglican prayer book into the new book without being challenged. It may be explained by the fact that Jewish-Anglican relations have only just been put on a formal basis, amidst, I may say, much goodwill.

The French never lose their sense of chic, not even at the security check at Charles de Gaulle airport. Paris. A colleague watched a woman passenger preparing herself for weapon screening, wearing a jaunty hat held at its angle by a huge and potentially lethal hatpin, which was regarded suspiciously by the guards. "Mais vous comprenez", she murmured sweetly, "pour le chapeau d'un homme." She was whisked through with adoring smiles of understanding, fully equipped to open fire, and she sat the entire crew in the back.

Alan Hamilton





Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MIDDLE EAST PRIORITIES

At a pace at which Mr. Carter's Administration is forcing in so far as it allows against reality the simple ideas which it has put forward in the Middle East, the process is, in the hope of persuading the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Union is important and that the dispute and that the issue should give way to it. He was also anxious to get the message that the States is now ready, in words, "to reassess its responsibilities and its responsibilities". He with mixed results and support for his main thesis. A fair, Mr. Haig has a understanding of some more hard-line figures in the administration of the Arab concern about the question. During his visit out of his way to the security of the search for a settlement in the West Bank are in his own inimitable "mutually reinforcing" He also showed sensitivity to the wariness of Arab presence in the area, less, no amount of skill could conceal areas of disagreement in the United States and to the Middle East.

Mr. Haig was only partially successful in calming fears of Reagan's willingness to Saudi Arabia with five (Airborne Warning and Systems) and with offensive weapons for the F-15.

QUEST ON BRITON

The Secretary has acted in appointing an official into the Briton riots. Hence there has been on requiring the Government evidence of its concern official words of shock. No matter how it, these by themselves inevitably seem little more than a formal response. There is a need to be based on a careful examination of the situation. In asking Lord to undertake the inquiry, Mr. Whitelaw has taken the obvious course to ensure his examination will be fair. Those are the words that have characterized the Scarman reports. By those on the disorder in Northern Ireland and the disorders in the Red Lion Square in

Home Secretary has to set up the inquiry section thirty-two of the Act 1964. This specifies a inquiry may be held on any matter connected with any area. It is not that Lord Scarman interpret this phrase. He will need to begin examination of the events

ARE THEY FRIGHTENED OF BALLOTS?

Employment Act became a summer, yet so far there is little to show for its on the industrial disputes of ad is so small at present flurry of cases is hardly expected—nor would it be very helpful if the Act started its life in a firework of litigation. The aspect of the slow start is particularly disappointing—te of the section of the Act public funds available on ballots. So far only bodies have made formal application to the certification for assistance under the and all three have been rejected. The reasons for this are clear, and obviously the election officer has to satisfy himself as to the relevance and desirability of ballots put forward for subsidy. But it is not a flying start. Nor are the organizations concerned—Royal College of Nursing, the Medical Association and Guinness Brewery and Association (UK)—unions of clout and sway in the TUC. Only such union has as yet expressed a desire to advantage of the Government offer, the Amalgamated Society of Engineering Workers, that will not make a formal

and brain death

Mr J. M. K. Spalding
The Director General of the states (April 10) of the drama death programmes: "The final programme aroused concern in the medical world: that concern was met by the second programme. Such an astonishing view of the second programme can only be supported by someone dependent BBC TV for his information."

the second programme the case depended on two cases used by one of Panorama's writers to demonstrate that the criteria of brain death were adequate. That witness has now fully admitted that he cannot reduce these cases. The bottom line falls out of Panorama's

Right to work

From Sir Paul Hayter
Sir, Bernard Levin's admirable article (April 8) debunking the myth of the "right to work" is a crucial point which will only be

region next week. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the policy of the United States in its present inchoate stage is based on assumptions which are not shared either by its European allies or by the principal states in the region. Even President Sadat, who speaks approvingly of the United States "resuming its role as the first super power responsible for peace all over the world" is somewhat less than eager to provide bases from which that super power could exercise its role in the Middle East.

The basic lesson for Mr. Reagan's Administration is that it cannot pursue effective regional policies without sufficient support from the states of that region. For most of the Arab-Israeli dispute with Palestinian participation is either more important than the Soviet threat or a precondition for meeting that threat effectively. The idea that the problem could be solved by reversing priorities and trying to settle the Palestinian question on the coat tails of an agreement on Middle East security is an interesting product of Washington thinking but is largely unconnected to Middle East realities.

This does not mean it has to be abandoned altogether. It may help to remind the Middle East from time to time that it does face wider threats which at some point could make its preoccupation with internal strife seem a dangerous luxury, but the United States will not get the common front it seeks unless it is seen to be helping with the problems which most preoccupy those it would like to have as allies.

necessary for him to go so far as to provide a social treatise on our times. To ask for that would be absurd. But anyone looking at the pattern of racial violence in Britain in recent years—in west, north and east as well as south London, in Bristol, and in other provincial towns and cities where so far it has smouldered rather than exploded—must recognize that more is involved than technical problems of police-immigrant relations. The underlying conditions that make it so difficult to conduct such relations harmoniously must also be examined, in so far as Lord Scarman is able to draw pertinent conclusions and make practical recommendations.

There is no reason why he should be restrained from doing so by his terms of reference. These are matters "connected with the policing" of Britain as well as other areas. But he might feel restrained by considerations of time. He has been asked to report urgently, and it would be tragic if other riots were to occur before he was able to do so. He might be wise therefore to present an interim report on the first, or possibly the first two aspects of his inquiry. But it would be a wasted opportunity if he were to ignore the third.

The real force behind the opposition towards ballots comes from the fears of many union leaders, great and small, that elections would become more difficult to manipulate. With some exceptions, the movement today is very imperfect in its democratic structure. This is to the advantage of those able to sway the emotions of a mass meeting, or to draw out branch discussions until their opponents have grown tired and gone home. Votes on industrial action or the election of officers are often decided on a 10 per cent poll at meetings, and on 40 per cent or more in ballots.

Balloting is not in itself a guarantee either of moderation or of real democracy. Mr. Moss Evans, for instance, was elected once by ballot of his vast union, and need never stand for election again till he retires; the seamen's strike showed how rules for a ballot can be got round; while the Government's ballot paid tribute to the solidarity in dispute that only a ballot can ensure. But balloting is still the precondition for real democracy, and as the power of the movement grows, the more important it becomes that its power should be exercised democratically, and seen to be so.

comprehensible to those lucky enough to have received some teaching in the elements of grammar.

The fact is that the "right to work" (as a verb) has become confused with the "right to work" (as a noun). The former right I suspect we would all defend; the latter, to work in the sense of "a job", is a nonsense, as Bernard Levin rightly points out.

It is as though the "right to marry" had been translated into the "right to a marriage": the former an abstract right in principle, the latter specific and dependent upon someone else being willing.

Yours faithfully,
DEBORAH HAYTER,
23 Patshull Road NWS,
April 9.

Civil Service strike and defence

From Mr K. M. Delaney
Sir, Sir Philip Watson's letter today (April 10) recommends dismissal of recalcitrant civil servants for not performing their contractual liabilities.

I have always understood that a contract imposes obligations on all those who are party to it. In this case, the Government's arbitrary breach of its obligations under established pay machinery surely renders any such contract void, to say the least.

Furthermore, in other contractual spheres a party which considers itself aggrieved would have recourse to law or some other form of arbitration. The Government is adamantly denying this right to the Civil Service unions. How anyone can defend the immorality of the position is beyond me.

All the flag-waving and moral indignation now affecting your leading articles and correspondence columns cannot disguise the fact that it was the employer that precipitated this particular industrial campaign, not the employees.

Yours faithfully,
K. M. DELANEY,
2 Darren Court,
Oakdale,
Blackwood,
Gwent.

From Mr Herb Greer
Sir, The reports about the supposed "coup attempt" in 1968 have been fascinating. What word will you apply to the attempt by a minority pressure group (the Civil Service unions) to sabotage government operations—not just in pursuit of money, but in an open attempt to force the executive to act according to the dictates of this minority group, against the public interest?

If this is not a real "coup attempt" it would be very interesting to know what you propose to call it, and why the public tolerates it with an apparently bland indifference.

Yours,
HERB GREER,
Film Rights Ltd,
113-117 Wardour Street, W1,
April 10.

From Mr Max Nicholson
Sir, While you rightly apply the terms "bully" and "cant" to the tactics now adopted in the civil service strike, the higher pay that the private sector, do you not think it is time to grapple with the cause?

As I showed in my book, *The System—The Misgovernment of Modern Britain*, the whole Civil Service set-up, dating from 1855, is obsolete, inefficient and extravagant, which now adds sabotage to Britain's defence and abusing its monopoly to harass countless citizens on their lawful occasions.

As the present Government is patently unable to honour its mandate from the electorate in face of the Minister's obstruction, and thus to reduce taxes and inflation and cut public sector borrowing, may I urge the adoption of a simple and popular remedy?

Investment for recovery

From Sir Charles Villiers
Sir, Your leader, "The high road to recovery", April 10, should have considered investment levels in other countries. What stands out a mile is not Southern Piers, but the colossal programmes in Japan and West Germany, which make our efforts look absolutely puny.

The United Kingdom savings rate is 15 per cent of disposable income, which is high and there is lots of money around (more for borrowers than for ordinary capital seekers). What we lack are investment programmes, whether for the "new" electrification of railways, energy saving, information technology, machine tools, microprocessors or the myriad needs of small business. The latter, given intelligent encouragement and savings, could add several percentage points to gross national product, and employ another million people in just a few years.

But little of this will happen until we can see a route to a reasonable level of investment, and a means by which a fair amount can stick with those who earned it, whatever government is in office. This route is still hard to see, but visibility is improving.

We are in fact now on the approach road, not on the high road to recovery. We should not let economists sidetrack us with threats of an investment trap. Better occasionally to be caught by the heels than to be out of mainstream modern industry which can sustain a rate well in excess of 10 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD,
House of Lords.

Nationality proposals

From Mrs I. P. Hewitt
Sir, Mr John Matthews in his letter (March 27) about the nationality proposals points out the "retroactive nature" of the measure dealing with the right to limit citizenship—the fact that the children of Britons by descent will not automatically qualify for British citizenship if born abroad, including many born abroad before the Bill becomes law.

I would like to point out that one aspect of the current Immigration Rules also has such a "retroactive effect". This concerns daughters born abroad of British parents: such girls, most of whom come from Asian communities, are denied the right to marry a non-British man and live with him in the United Kingdom, a right enjoyed by their male counterparts. Most of the girls affected were born before the Immigration Rules were changed to prevent the entry of male fiancés to the United Kingdom, to marry girls in this category.

The British legal tradition hitherto has tended to steer clear of being retroactive, even to close tax loopholes. But the recent tax proposed on profits made by banks during the past year, and the examples relating to nationality and immigration show a dangerous change away from that tradition.

Civil Service strike and defence

This would be to enact a New Public Service Act, terminating the existing Civil Service from the earliest practicable date (with proper regard to existing legal rights), and starting a fresh service under a new Public Service Commission. It would be manned by a new, progressively better qualified profession of public administration, with only a core of permanently engaged staff, the remainder being on short-term contracts or on secondment from the universities, business and elsewhere, with preference for reorganising existing civil servants having a record of efficient and loyal fulfilment of their duties. The total should be, say, at least 250,000 less than that now existing, which would be ample for all essential needs.

As a first step, might not those members of Parliament who hope that they may persuade the disillusioned public to reelect them show their own sense of responsibility by tabling a well-based motion of no confidence in the Civil Service, and a demand for its replacement by something more modern, less inefficient and less irresponsible?

Yours faithfully,
MAX NICHOLSON,
The Athenaeum,
Fall Mall, SW1,
April 10.

From Captain J. A. R. Swainson, RN
Sir, The Government can surely fulfil its duty to the nation by sailing HMS Resolution to Norfolk Navy Yard, Virginia, for her vital maintenance.

I hope, too, that the Government will take early steps to de-civilize the tasks necessary to keep Resolution on station in defence of the Atlantic. This must be their bounden duty as our role in the Atlantic alliance is priority one.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. R. SWAINSON,
48 Springhead,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
April 10.

From Mr David Harington
Sir, Whilst a customs officer or immigration official is working normally he has the right to stop and examine any passport, look for contraband, and so on. As soon as he begins some action for his own ends, beyond his normal work, he loses that right and becomes a private individual who is simply obstructing.

I am a British citizen; I do not smuggle, and I have the right to leave and enter this country freely. I hope I shall have the protection of the police when I ignore the attempts of officials to obstruct me. And, if others ignore the official claims, too, we shall have no delays at airports this Easter.

Yours etc,
DAVID HARRINGTON,
40 Leighton Road, NW5,
April 12.

thousands of new investments are begun quite soon. These should be aimed at more and better of what ever it is, at competitive cost in the sunrise rather than the sunset industries.

Erhard encouraged it to happen in Germany. Pompidou made a sure in France, but it has not yet taken off in power in Britain. There has to be a first time... surely.

Sincerely,
CHARLES VILLIERS,
Chairman,
RSC (Industry) Ltd,
42 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,
April 11.

Auchinleck's tactics

From Colonel Lord Clifford of Chudleigh
Sir, At the time a more major and commanding due to death and wounds, the remnants of the support group to 22nd Armoured Brigade at the battle of the "Devil's Cauldron" (June 5/6, 1942) I make bold to say that the consensus of opinion, discussed at museum as POWs, was that the generals inviting criticism were Ritchie and Messervy.

Auchinleck and Lumsden were never faulted.

In an earlier prewar existence as a subaltern in India I do recall the awe in which Auchinleck was then held as the only general who could give a complete divisional commander's orders without using a note.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CLIFFORD,
House of Lords.

ernment was at an early stage of considering what changes would be necessary to the Immigration Rules following the passage of the Bill. I would like to remind him that reinstatement of the marriage rights of British girls born abroad is called for to bring the rules in line with the very commendable sex equality feature of the Nationality Bill.

Yours faithfully,
I. P. HEWITT, Secretary,
UK Asian Women's Conference,
5 More Close,
Furley,
Surrey.

Moving Highgate graves

From Mr R. S. Nichols
Sir, I would like to suggest that the graves and memorials of the future Action Committee on the Future of the Film Industry. This committee has been pressing for some time for the formation of a British Film Authority whose function, among other things, would be to examine the existing legislation affecting film and television and be the principal adviser to the Government on all matters relating to the audio-visual entertainment industry, as suggested in the letter.

We hope very much that this new initiative by so many distinguished film makers will help to persuade the Government of the urgent necessity for the formation of a British Film Authority.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. NICHOLS, Chairman,
Mill Hill and Hendon Historical Society,
29 Maxwellton Avenue,
Mill Hill, NW7,
April 10.

Election as MP of IRA prisoner

From Miss Jill MacMahon
Sir, Whilst reading your coverage of IRA hunger striker Mr Robert Sands' stand for election, it occurred to me that his candidature emphasises a paradox in the law: namely, that although a convicted person may, whilst detained in a penal institution, vote in an election, he may yet stand as a candidate in one.

Should our statute books continue to show our legal system to have such an asinine face?

Yours faithfully,
JILL MACMAHON,
Maravat,
15 Croft Avenue,
West Wickham,
Kent,
April 9.

From Sir Hugh Fraser, MP for Stafford and Stone (Conservative)
Sir, I hope the House of Commons will keep it cool over the Fermaugh and South Tyrone election (report, April 11), and neither pardon the victor nor expunge his name from the roll of elected MPs.

The people of the constituency have a law and by that law they have chosen. No electoral regulation has seemingly been broken. By law, too, the victor serves a criminal sentence not subject to alteration.

If our leaders are in shock and seek for precedents at this season, none is better than the good book itself. The Procurator of Justice, for understandable reasons, has always been underestimated as an administrator. Neither dreams nor his wife nor curiosity nor presentiments of the future deflected him from his Roman duty, which was to judge within customary law the course least likely to cause a tumult among the people.

The people's choice, however organized, was Barabbas. Pilate accepted it: as a governor rightly. It was as the Gospel says of necessity. If necessity, one hopes that the leaders of the parties in the House of Commons will keep their heads and the law today.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH FRASER,
House of Commons, SW1.

Peacetime conscription

From Mr R. A. Hodgkin
Sir, It is beginning to seem desirable, and it may eventually become essential, that all citizens should contribute, not only in taxes but increasingly in service, to the cost of a civilized society in the twenty-first century. Compulsion might be necessary, or strong inducements such as the availability of grants for tertiary education. (The former, pace Mr Wood (April 10) is not bribery.)

Service opportunities would be diversified and no doubt some military options would be available.

But a more crucial problem remains: how could the general tendency of such a movement remain non-totalitarian? Only, I suggest, if powerful bodies such as the churches, major charities (and the Humanist Society), enlightened industries and enlightened labour organizations were to take a lead now.

Charities and the law

From the General Secretary of the South Place Ethical Society

Sir, It is important to get the facts right. The South Place Ethical Society, founded in 1793 and descended from a Unitarian church, was recognized as a charity last summer as the result of an appeal to the High Court. The grounds were not, as Mr Hubert Picarda (April 13) thinks, "because of its tendency to moral improvement", nor as Dr. Spence (April 13) thinks, "as an organization cultivating Humanism".

Mr Justice Dillon ruled that the society's objects and record met the requirements of two of the categories of charity defined by Lord Macnaghten in *Pemsel's case* (1891): viz. "the advancement of education" and "the benefit of the community".

It was our hope to be recognized as a charity on religious grounds, in that one of our two main objects is "the cultivation of a rational religious sentiment". The judge himself summarized that case in the words: "such qualities as truth, love and beauty are sacred and the advancement of such belief is the advancement of religion." However, he declined to accept this: "Religion, as I see it, is concerned with man's relation to God, and ethics are concerned with man's relation to man."

Nevertheless we were happy that justice was done, but there is one aspect of the matter that none of your correspondents has remarked upon. It took us 16 difficult and expensive years to bring the matter to court. There is surely an anomaly here. We presented the

New life for film making

From Lord Brabourne and Sir David Puttnam

Sir, We have read with interest the letter (April 10) signed by a number of distinguished film makers and we both support wholeheartedly much of what was said in that letter.

In paragraph two, the letter advocates "the establishment within a single ministry of a new statutory body". We are both members of the future Action Committee on the Future of the Film Industry. This committee has been pressing for some time for the formation of a British Film Authority whose function, among other things, would be to examine the existing legislation affecting film and television and be the principal adviser to the Government on all matters relating to the audio-visual entertainment industry, as suggested in the letter.

We hope very much that this new initiative by so many distinguished film makers will help to persuade the Government of the urgent necessity for the formation of a British Film Authority.

Yours faithfully,
BRABOURNE,
DAVID PUTTNAM,
41 Montpelier Walk, SW7.

Election as MP of IRA prisoner

From the Reverend M. J. Peel
Sir, It is not an outrage to all decent citizens of the United Kingdom that, in announcing the result of the by-election, the returning officer described the winning candidate officially as a "political prisoner".

The man elected is a convicted felon. His status is that of all who are in prison for breaking the laws of this realm. He is not there for his political views but for what he has done in violating the law. He cannot be a "political prisoner".

Surely the returning officer must have known this. Should he not have insisted, therefore, that the candidate describe himself accurately as a prisoner, detained at her Majesty's pleasure, and refused to have accepted a form of words which, when used at the declaration of the poll, could not fail to give the IRA another boost to its credibility?

I remain, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PEEL,
The Rectory,
Iwer Heath,
Iwer,
Buckinghamshire,
April 11.

From Mrs K. F. Archbold-George
Sir, Surely Sands' election is an embarrassment to the Government rather than just for the Government?

In fact, it seems as though democracy has some sort of in-built death wish. Why else should it so unreasonably select a man of blood, a convicted victor, a member of that infantile group which believes it is entitled to grasp power and hold power by denying innocent people the right to live, can be elected to that body of people which makes laws for all of us to obey?

Should a democracy be ruled by bloodthirsty lovers of street fighting, sniping from behind walls, bombing and running away to force the lovers of civilized order to play hide and seek with them? What is easier or more cowardly than destructive, whether of the self or unsuspecting innocents?

Yours faithfully,
K. F. ARCHBOLD-GEORGE,
351 Muswell Hill Broadway, N10,
April 12.

There would be many possibilities for useful, disciplined, challenging service, but consider just one: if primary education were to fulfil its great promise something like three times the present teacher power would be needed. Most of this could be provided by highly trained auxiliaries, working under highly trained professionals. The latter, instead of being overworked as at present, would gain more scope and influence. "Lightly trained" might mean a six-month piloting course in a college of education.

Would it be cost-effective? Hard to tell. But what would be the cost advantage of having, say, 95 per cent of our 12-year-old population able to use language well and competent in basic maths and music?

Could not this be a policy for our future parties?

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN A. HODGKIN,
Barepa House,
Nr Falmouth,
Cornwall,
April 11.

Charity Commissioners with a problem on which they felt they needed a court ruling. One cannot quarrel with that, but as things stand there is no appeal procedure between the Charity Commissioners and the Court of Chancery.

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Charity Commissioners with a problem on which they felt they needed a court ruling. One cannot quarrel with that, but as things stand there is no appeal procedure between the Charity Commissioners and the Court of Chancery.

Mr Justice Dillon ruled that the society's objects and record met the requirements of two of the categories of charity defined by Lord Macnaghten in *Pemsel's case* (1891): viz. "the advancement of education" and "the benefit of the community".

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The rebels out to win with guns and a prayer

Trevor Fishlock, in the first of three articles on the guerrilla war in Afghanistan, reports from inside the Mujahidin stronghold of Torabora

The blackened rubble of Torabora war camp bears witness to its importance as a Mujahidin base. Russian snipers have bombed and rocketed it many times; the doctor is still swabbing stinging iodine on straggling gashes after the last raid, but the guerrillas are grinning and their black and white flax flasks, a sort of thumb nose. The Russians have failed to blast them from their mountain crevices and Mujahidin confidence, vigour and capability are growing.

After 12 days in Afghanistan, including three among the 200 Mujahidin lodged in this hide-out above the roaring Agam river, I left with a clear impression of a guerrilla force increasingly well organized, armed and supplied.

In this area at least the traditional picture of yelling motley bands of wild and ill-disciplined tribesmen is no longer accurate. Fierceness, ruthlessness and discipline are fighting remain their unadorned stock in trade. But to these qualities have been grafted a strong command structure and a sense of order and purpose.

The Mujahidin in Nangahar province have not only consolidated their area of control by driving government sympathizers out. They believe they are getting the enemy's measure and their evident good morale derives from the feeling that strength is coming in their stride.

Torabora is the headquarters of one of the new breed of mountain chiefs of Afghanistan. Abdul Khayum is a thoughtful and courteous former geography teacher, aged 30, who has exchanged his Jalalabad classroom for this 2,000 ft. eyrie, and his books for bandoliers and Soviet Kalashnikov automatic

rifle and a belt with a couple of full 30-round magazines stuck in it. Abdul Khayum is a province commander. From Torabora he plans and directs attacks on Russian and Afghan army positions throughout Nangahar province, and especially in the city of Jalalabad, 32 miles to the north, the scene of constant fighting.

There are four major commanders under him, and each of these heads about a dozen groups of about 30 men who have their own sub-commanders. The relationship between commanders and men is easy and informal, but the leaders have genuine authority. Many of them are former teachers and count former students among their men.

A typical group going out on a raid has, as I saw, about 15 Kalashnikovs, a light machine gun on a tripod, an assortment of rifles, full ammunition pouches and belts, and one or two Soviet shoulder-held rocket-propelled grenade launchers, with youths, like powder monkeys, carrying the grenades. All the men here are Nangahar men, fighting on their home ground and for it. They spend most of their time in the province and when they go to Pakistan it is usually to visit their families who are refugees.

Abdul Khayum is a prudent man. "This is going to be a long war and we have to concentrate on building our reserves of weapons and ammunition. We need some means of bringing down the helicopters, more bullets and more medical supplies. These things will come if we are patient. In 15 months since the Russians came we have grown much stronger and we have the advantage of fighting on our own soil. We will grow still stronger."



Mujahidin guerrillas with a twin-barrelled 20 millimetre cannon carried in pieces to their camp.

His prime means of waging war is to harass government troops and installations by commando raids, and to ambush lorries and troop carriers. The Mujahidin always try to retrieve weapons and ammunition during their attacks.

"The hope in the long term is a Kalashnikov for every man," Abdul Khayum said. There are no women in Torabora. It is not a village in the usual sense, but a base where fighting men group, prepare and rest after attacks. Their needs are eminently simple and their monotonous diet consists of flat, hard wheat bread baked on iron dishes, a sort of spinach, occasional glutinous rice sprinkled with the juice of bitter oranges, and sometimes the luxury of a potato or an egg. Their most important requirement from Jalalabad, apart from ammunition, is green and black tea and the sugar which is their main energy source.

On my way in to Torabora, after a three day march over the mountains from Pakistan, the Mujahidin supply volume I was with, had to skirt a vil-

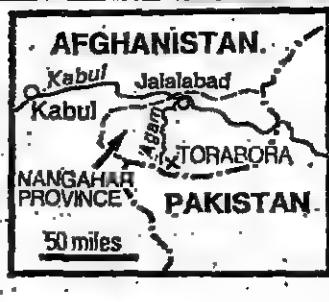
lage a few miles down the Agam river because it was being shelled by tanks and pounded by helicopter gunships. "That is my village," Abdul Khayum said. "My own house and garden was smashed a year ago and my wife and children escaped to Pakistan."

Torabora's location protects it from tank or artillery fire, but helicopters can still get into the gorge to wreck the stronghold's scattered mud and stone buildings. The guerrillas had three Russian 20 millimetre machine guns sited in the hillsides to fight these attacks. And a few days ago they installed two brand new twin barrelled 20 millimetre cannon which they humped up the gorge in pieces.

"They came from Jalalabad," Abdul Khayum said cryptically. Each of the gun emplacements is manned around the clock. Each has a cave for living and a magazine store, with a rock door, dug into the mountain side. The development of their fire power, and the swelling of their armoury is a source of considerable pride among the

Mujahidin here. It is part of the basis of their belief that they will win in the end, and an important contribution to the high spirits which characterize Torabora's community and the groups I met on the plains to the north.

But also important is their faith. The five times a day ritual of prayer is observed by the majority of the men. They finger their prayer beads as lovingly as they stroke their well-cared-for guns. It often seems that their prayers have become an assertion of their will to resist. A young man stripping off his bandolier and laying down his rifle before saying his prayers at sunset said "We pray, we win."



Bernard Levin

A fond pip pip to my priggish friends

I suppose I ought to sunny the food trips once more before I go. I have been back to Pire Bise, and on the same trip I visited the legendary Girardet for the first time, and on top of that discovered Chez Pierre, of which I had never even heard. So if the pigs will kindly finish their baked beans, and my gastronomic and professional pen and will pour out a glass of something pleasant, and settle down to enjoy himself, you shall hear.

Business took me to Montreux which was in itself a nostalgic journey, for it was the first place I went to on my very first visit abroad, more decades ago than I care to remember. (It can even be remembered that the hotel I stayed at on that occasion: the Bonivard.) And just along the road from Montreux, in a suburb of Lausanne called Crissier, stands the restaurant of Frédy Girardet, of whom I have heard many good judges say that it can compare with the best in France: a large claim. You can indeed eat well in Switzerland, and I often have (as the Veldiner Keller in Zürich, for instance, the Euler in Basle, and Chesa Veglia in St Moritz), but a comparison with the best in France is another matter, and I have long felt the need to judge for myself.

So I did; but the night before I lunched chez Girardet. I went into Vevey to try Chez Pierre, which I had found in a little booklet called *La route Suisse des plaisirs de la table* (if the publishers of it, who seem to constitute a kind of club for the organization of the *Kelso de Campagne* for only 44 francs, I would be grateful if they would send me an up-to-date

copy). There is a brasserie downstairs, and a tiny restaurant up; up I went.

I began with the *foie gras chaud aux raisins*, poached in a lovely truffly sauce which I mopped up with about three-quarters of a loaf of the wickedly delicious home-baked dark bread Pierre Béthaz provides. (The pigs had not been removed from the grapes I did mind, indeed it was nice to have something which crunched amid the smoothness, but I feel obliged to mention it thus, as it is the kind of item that particularly upsets the pigs). Hesitating over the next course, I took M Béthaz's advice and had the *poussin aux morilles*, nor did I regret it, for it was superbly tender, a huge mound of the delicious little crinkly mushrooms, and the bird was as tender as whipped cream. Three or four cheeses later, I took a mélange of five miniature sorbets: I foolishly forgot to note them, and can only remember the lemon and the passion fruit.

I drank Swiss throughout, of course, a nice crisp Aligot with the *foie gras* and a *Désalé* with the bird; I am always pleasantly surprised by Swiss wine, and wish I saw more of it. I went to bed well pleased with life, and reflecting that with the memory of Chez Pierre under my belt, I was well equipped in case I was disappointed at Girardet.

O, but I wasn't! It is beautifully and tastefully decorated, and as soon as I sat down I realized why it is necessary to book there a month in advance; there is room for only 44 diners. Lucky 44, and lucky to be one of them, for the meal which

followed fully lived up to the most extravagant claims made for M Girardet's cooking. Having done so well with M Béthaz's *foie gras*, I decided to begin with the Girardet version, in which it is poached in wine vinegar with walnut oil added, and to go on with *La côtelette de pigeon aux choux verts*, but the head waiter suggested that I might like to taste a demijohn of the *foie gras* and follow it by another entrée. To this wise proposal I naturally assented with alacrity, and settled for lobster, which came with a sauce of langoustines, and slices from a truffle that must have been the size of a football.

The whole proceedings, I should mention, were preceded by a wedge of tart, a variation on *pissaladière*, and what with that and the *foie gras* (the vintage setting off the richness of the meat in a most notable manner) and the lobster (fresh as though it had been caught in Lac Léman that very morning) my appetite was quite whetted for the pigeon. It came wrapped in the inner leaves of the choux vert—an odd combination on paper, but the vegetable's mildness was a fine foil for the strong meat of the pigeon. I had been drinking Krug as an aperitif, and went on with it up to the pigeon, with which I drank a good powerful *Bôlé*, also very suitable for the game little bird.

Girardet's cheese trolley is a noble sight, so lavish that it includes three Gruyères—*salé*, *mi-doux* and *doux*. I had the middle one, together with a rich Vacherin, a Tomme Vaudoise, and a couple of local cheeses, and by the time I had finished I was seriously doubting whether I could manage more than another couple of

courses. Fortunately, only two more were necessary: first, a delicate *mille-feuille*, reminiscent in its lightness of the desserts of M Ménager, the *maitre-pâtissier* who runs the *Hôtelier du Moulin de Maine-Brun* at Angoulême, and then Girardet's selection of sorbets, which includes grapefruit and tea. The last was unexpected, but for the life of me I could not put the name to the taste, and had to ask. The whole meal was perfect, and perfectly balanced; *vaut le voyage*.

I did not feel like much dinner that night, so I spent the evening thinking about the morrow and Pire Bise. The morrow dawned sunny, and got sunnier as I approached; when I arrived, the lake was sparkling, the handsome *swan floating majestically* at the edge. Inside, nothing had changed; Madame's smile was as welcoming as ever, and soon after I had dispatched the *parfait de foie d'oie* I was listening to the sound of the *menuiserie* better bubbling on my *omble cherville*, that rare fish, like the most delicately pink-fleshed trout, that is said to be found nowhere but in Lake Geneva and Lake Annecy. That had not changed, either, but sarragon being out of season, I couldn't have my usual *poularde* and *légumes*, but I did. I had a hundredweight of them, and readily succumbed to the suggestion of the other half when I had dispatched the first lot along with some rice and a lightly-dressed lettuce salad. I Old man Bise used personally to pinch the bosom of every chicken admitted to his kitchen, rejecting *sans phrases* any with even a hint of toughness. I have no doubt the process is still being followed today.

Only three cheeses, for I knew what was coming, and knew also that justice not only had to be done, but had to be manifestly seen to be done, which also accounted for the fact that I confined myself, when the desserts appeared, to some strawberries, some Chinese gooseberries (you and the Trade Descriptions Act can call them *Kiwifruit* if you like, but I shall go on addressing them by the name under which I first met them) and a vanilla ice.

And then, to finish, the grandest of all the *grande spécialités* at that beloved maison: the *marjolaine*, a gâteau that looks like a brick and melts in the mouth like spun sugar, its quality never diminished by the twentieth part of a hair's breadth in the 25 years I have been going there. I had been drinking Sancerre right up to the chicken, with which I planned to drink a half-bottle of 1970 Montreux, but there were no halves left, and—true to my policy of moderation at table—I felt that a whole bottle at that point might be overdoing things. So I accepted the suggestion of a wine I had never ever heard of, with a name—*Covent des Jacobins*—like a Danish joke. You couldn't mistake it for a grand cru, of course, but it was full of character, and the half-bottle was just enough for the chicken and the cheese.

I took my coffee outside in the sunshine, and did not think of the pigs at all, though I raised my *armagnac* to the Professor. But I didn't feel like much dinner that night, either.

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LONDON DIARY

Please someone, come and take a shine to me

Where have all the window cleaners gone? It is four years since an eager washer with ladder and chain called at my house, promising to return every month to keep the daylight flowing in. I have not seen him or any of his like since, and I know I am not alone in finding them a remarkably elusive brotherhood of men. You would think that in these times of high unemployment and the wholesale shedding of factory jobs, a window cleaning ground would be the ideal business for a redundant captain to start up. Minimal capital will provide you with ladder, ladders and a bicycle, and a plastic bucket costs only a fraction of the quantity of Best London Bitter it will hold. So where are they all?

I know where one has gone. Jim Cook, who works for a London office window cleaning firm, is in New York this week cleaning windows of the Empire State Building, hanging by a mere canvas belt at a terrifying

height above Fifth Avenue. Cook won the doubtful expense-paid privilege by entering a competition on the label of a vodka bottle. I can only think he demolished most of the contents before setting down which particular dream he would like to come true. Cook, who used to clean the topmost windows of the Post Office Tower before they closed the restaurant, told me he would not care to be a self-employed domestic window cleaner in England. People do not want their windows cleaned when it is raining, which it does a great deal, so there is money to be made only in fine weather.

And householders never seem to be in when the window cleaner calls. The trouble and strife of trying to collect money afterwards, according to Cook, tends to negate all the attractions of the job. Like those other little bonuses that George Formby used to sing about.

Milkmen, as I reported the other day, have the same problems, which is one reason why doorstep milk deliveries are on the decline in some areas. Meanwhile I have to do the

windows myself, enduring white knuckles, vertigo, paralysing fear and greasy streaks and that is only on the ground floor. I wish someone down my way would start up one of those small businesses which Mrs Thatcher seems to believe are the answer to industrial redundancy. It would provide work and save me from a broken neck.

Great escapist

I detect a considerable revival of interest in the works of Doris Lessing, the mannered, witty escapologist who is usually associated with the twenties but who in fact died only in 1960.

Penguin plan to reissue three of the Berry and Co novels this summer, and BBC Television is considering another dramatized series. Six of the original *Yates* titles are still in print, and continue to sell well.

But the best news for Yates enthusiasts is that the first thorough biography of this shadowy and often maligned figure is to appear next year. The book, by Jack Sather, was to have been published by Cassell, but fell victim to that house's recent decision to aban-



"Nigel says that in time they'll be able to detect race riots from outer space."

don almost its entire general publishing list.

The manuscript has been rescued by Hodder and Stoughton, who hope to publish it next February. Little is known about Yates, except that he was really a

barrier named C. W. Mercer, lived in France until chased out by the Germans in 1940, and spent most of the rest of his life in Rhodesia, where he was commissioned in the army. He wrote his first short story in 1911 and maintained a substantial output until two years before his death.

"Yates still has a tremendous public," Smithers told me. "His style is very Harrow-and-Oxford. Shakespeare and water, but he wrote excellent, if pedantic, English, and he was a thundering good storyteller." Smithers has tracked down many of Yates's close associates, including his bank manager; by coincidence Smithers's daughter was born in Yates's former house at Watlington, Kent, now a nursing home.

Hidden plot

Wild woodland 15 minutes' walk from King's Cross station? Well, something like it, anyway, has come to light after lying hidden for years.

The triangular plot of just under an acre near Thornhill Square, W2, has been left undisturbed and untended since it fell into neglect as an orna-

mental garden soon after its enclosure in the 1850s. There is no public access into it, and the only means of entry is through the houses backing on to it.

It has mature chestnut, lime, ash and plane; elm went with the disease. There are saplings, scrub and undergrowth, and fewer broken bottles, old bedsteads and tips of rubble than you would expect. Jays have been sighted, and it is a haunt of Barnsbury's owls.

The people whose houses back on to it have never really had the right to enter it, and they don't much, though they kept chickens there during the war. Islington council bought it in 1973 for purposes now abandoned, and is now considering its sale for private housing. The surrounding residents, unhappy at the prospect, have formed a Barnsbury Wood Cooperative for its preservation.

They make the rather grand claim that it is "an established but neglected ecological park." The word "ecology" is a weapon of modern manufacturing much employed in the warfare of planning controls. It means in this case that the schoolchildren of Islington would not have to go all the way

to Highgate Cemetery to be shown what nature is like if left to itself.

Flying on a Pan-American Boeing 747 last week, I was disturbed by an advertising slogan in the inside of the aircraft door, just as the emergency escape chute container, which declared: "Say hello to a brand new world."

Pray, sis...

Representatives of the Jewish community in their first formal discussion with the Church of England, have complained that the new *Anglican Alternative Service Book* contains more than a hint of antisemitism. It comes in the third Collect for use on Good Friday, which seeks God's mercy on the Jews and asks that they be cured of "ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt for your word."

Canon Peter Schneider, an Anglican participant in the meeting, is now asking for it to be withdrawn in favour of something that cannot give offence.

The Roman Catholic Church agreed several years ago to rid its public prayers, particularly those on Good Friday, of such phrases as "the perfidious Jews". It is all the more surprising, therefore, that this Anglican prayer book, long a new book without being challenged. It may be explained by the fact that Jewish-Anglican relations have only just been put on a formal basis, amidst, I may say, much goodwill.

The French never lose their sense of chic, not even at the security check at Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris. A colleague watched a woman passenger present herself for a security screening, wearing a jaunty hat held at its angle by a huge and potentially lethal hatpin, which was regarded suspiciously by the guards. "Mais vous comprenez," she murmured sweetly, "pour le cheveu il faut absolument..." She was whisked through with adoring smiles of understanding, fully equipped to open whisks or stab the entire crew in the back.

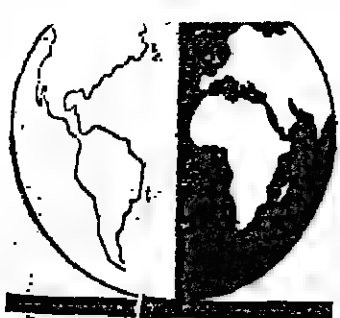
Alan Hamilton



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous da

مكة من الرحمة

مركز من الاصل



UK jobs worry in Philips reshaping

Parts of the United Kingdom operations of Philips, the Dutch electronics and electrical multinational, could be at risk in their widespread restructuring to cut 20,000 jobs—mostly in Europe—over the next two years. Britain is a key part of the Philips empire, accounting for 10 per cent of the company's world sales, as well as the same percentage of the total workforce.

Temporary curbs put on textile imports

Britain, France and West Germany have been permitted by the European Commission to limit imports of textiles originating in non-EEC countries that have been routed through member states. The action comes under a special Community provision to protect weak industries in member countries, which allows temporary trade barriers to be erected between them.

Britain will be allowed to limit imports of woven suits produced in Bulgaria until the end of June and West Germany to limit imports of cotton fabrics originating in China until the end of October. France can now restrict imports of certain knitted clothing which contain plastic material coming from Taiwan until the end of October and cotton fabrics produced in South Korea until July 31.

The measures follow similar limitations imposed by France on Japanese television sets earlier this year.

Merchant banks call
The United Arab Emirates must restrict the expansion of banks and branches but promote the creation of a few soundly-structured investment or merchant banks, says the UAE Central Bank, in its first annual report. The UAE had many banks, bank branches, money-changers and financial companies. But the lack of genuine investment companies and merchant banks was both a waste and effect of the rudimentary state of the money and capital markets.

Steel slowdown
Japanese crude-steel production fell last year for the first time in three years because of the domestic economic slowdown and an export slump, according to the manufacturers. The Japan Iron and Steel Federation said production in the financial year ending last month totalled 107.33 million tonnes, a 5 per cent decline from 113.01 million tonnes the previous year after a drop in demand from the construction and civil-engineering industries.

Mobil oil find
Oil has been found in the High Island area of the Gulf of Mexico, 108 miles south-east of Galveston, Texas, where the Mobil Corporation is developing a natural gas find. Partners with Mobil are Standard Oil Co (Indiana), Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, Texas Gas Transmission Co and Union Oil Co of California.

Belgium output up
Belgium's seasonally adjusted industrial production index rose by 1.6 per cent in January from December but was 1.1 per cent below the January, 1980 level, according to the National Statistics Office in Brussels.

China tourism rise
China earned \$617m (£284m) in foreign exchange last year from its expanding tourist industry, more than a third above the previous year, the official Guangming daily newspaper has reported.

Moscow-Tokyo pact
The Soviet Union and Japan reached a new five-year trade and payments agreement to replace a previous one that ended last December. The formal signing is expected to take place in Moscow next month.

Austrian prices up
Austria's preliminary March consumer price index last month stood at 126.9 points, 0.8 per cent above February but 7.2 per cent higher than in March 1980. The 1976 index equals 100.

US coal talks
Negotiations between the United Mine Workers of America and the coal industry were resuming today in an effort to end the week-and-a-half old strike, according to a union spokesman in Washington.

Italian output up
Italian industrial output, seasonally adjusted, rose a provisional 7.5 per cent in February, after a 1.2 per cent January fall. For the whole year, the index showed a 3.6 per cent fall from February 1980.

BL-Mitsubishi link
Leyland, a British Leyland affiliate, and Mitsubishi are discussing plans to produce two or three tonne Japanese lorries in Nigeria. But Mitsubishi says the plans have not been completed.

Trade deficit halved
Japan halved its trade deficit last year thanks to soaring exports, including a 41 per cent rise in vehicle shipments, the Finance Ministry said in Tokyo.

Steel strike call
Metalworkers in the north of West Germany have asked their union's central committee to sanction a strike after the collapse of wage talks with employers.

The biggest anxiety over the British operation, which covers many sectors from kitchen appliances and lighting to colour television manufacture and defence equipment, is that its overall profitability is said to be below Philips' international average. With United Kingdom wage levels rising, the costs of production in Britain are now only marginally less than on the Continent where productivity levels are mostly higher.

Philips said in London last night: "It is too early to say what other action may be necessary in the United Kingdom apart from that already in train. Any such plans would first be discussed in the normal course of consultations with our employees."

The key question is whether any of the larger British operations is at risk as Philips looks for a radical reduction in plants duplicated in various countries. The company, for example, produces television tubes at nine European plants, and would like to reduce this to two.

One of the tube makers is Philips' Mullard subsidiary in Britain, sole producer of tubes in the United Kingdom until Sony

starts some tube production in Wales about the end of this year.

Mullard tube production is running at one million a year being used extensively by other United Kingdom television makers as well as going to Philips' own assembly factories.

Philips makes around 500,000 colour television sets a year in Britain, accounting for a quarter of the United Kingdom market and rather more than a sixth of Philips' European production.

Rationalization of Philips' colour television assembly in Britain—with a Lowestoft factory to close in about a year—is already reducing jobs by 1,100 without reduction in production. Rationalization of glass and tube production has cut the workforce by another 850.

The television assembly is being located in one factory at Croydon, but even when Lowestoft is closed and all production is transferred, there will still be room for production expansion at Croydon. On television assembly Philips has been registering productivity increases of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent annually for several years.

Whether these rationalization moves may produce an impregnable argument for maintaining, or even expanding, the United Kingdom tube making operation, together with television set assembly, seems to be seen. Around 75,000 British-assembled Philips sets are exported annually.

At Hamilton in Scotland Philips employs around 1,200. The factory is designated a key world production centre for lighting fittings and electric shavers.

Philips makes such designations when various factors, like the strength of a domestic market, most favours a factory as a key source for international markets. Hamilton, which also manufactures other small appliances like fan heaters, exports 40 per cent of its output.

Philips' main centre for production of larger kitchen appliances in Britain, is at Halifax in Yorkshire where there is a workforce of 600. This is a world production centre for tumble driers where 600 are employed. But there could still be a question mark over at least part of the Halifax operation.

Halifax also produces "front loader" washing machines for the United Kingdom and Irish markets. But Philips already has a large proportion of its washing machines as well as much refrigeration equipment in Italy where high production volumes have kept selling prices comparatively low despite the high inflation rate.

But with Philips now having more than 15 production centres in Britain—including Pye factories around Cambridge, it seems unlikely that the British operation will go unscathed.

The jobs reduction envisaged will effectively reduce the Philips workforce throughout Europe by about 9 per cent overall.

Derek Harris

Abolition of training board urged

Engineering companies have called for the abolition of the Government industry training board and have made their support of any reconstituted body conditional.

The Engineering Employers' Federation which has 6,000 members, said that it would support a new training board if it were controlled by the industry.

In its response to the Manpower Service Commission's review of training requirements, the EEF said that a "substantial proportion" of its membership considered that the Engineering Industry Training Board should be abolished. It claimed that the board had been a waste of money in raising the quality and quantity of training.

The EEF claimed that the present structure of the EITB rendered it insensitive to the real needs of companies.

Noting that the Government had already decided its intention of retaining statutory boards in key areas—despite the employers' opposition—the EEF said that it would support a restructured board on which employers accounted for half the membership and held the chairmanship.

The EEF also stressed that its support for any new body would be conditional on the scope of the reconstituted training board being widened to encompass all companies employing engineering skills.

Discord over Bonn's interest rate policy

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, April 13

The West German government in Bonn and the country's independent Central Bank have fallen out over how to run the economy. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, is pushing for a policy of lower interest rates which has met unexpected tough opposition from Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Federal bank.

Although government spokesmen in Bonn were today denying reports of a row between the two men, relations seem to have deteriorated over the past few weeks.

Herr Schmidt is under pressure from leftwing colleagues in the Social Democrat party to stimulate the economy in an attempt to prevent unemployment rising to an average of 1.2 million this year.

Herr Pöhl, who owes his present position largely to the support given to him in the past by the Chancellor, is adamant that battling inflation which is currently around 5.5 per cent, should be the main priority for policymakers.

In the Federal bank view, high interest rates are necessary to stifle inflation and to help the structural adjustment process that Germany must undergo if it is to get rid of its now huge balance of payments deficits.

The immediate cause of discord is the plan announced last week under which Germany and France will borrow the equivalent of 5,000 million European

currency units (about £2,700m) for lending at subsidised interest rates to small businesses and for energy saving projects.

It now seems as if the amount of interest subsidy may be as high as 2.5 per cent—a level which the Federal bank believes could prove to be a stimulus to inflation as well as a provocation to United States criticism.

Accordingly, when Herr Pöhl attended last week's cabinet meeting in Bonn he did not give his approval to the borrowing plans. Although these plans can go ahead without specific Federal bank authorization, Herr Schmidt chose to show his displeasure the following day in an unusual way.

He disclosed that M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, had written to Bonn to protest about Germany's high interest rates. Instead of maintaining a discreet silence about the letter, the Chancellor announced that he had passed it to the Federal bank to answer—making clear that he was distancing himself from the Central bank's high interest rate policy.

This public move tends to reinforce reports that the Chancellor took both Herr Pöhl and his deputy Dr Helmut Schmidt to task at a stormy confidential meeting between coalition party leaders and the two Central bankers at the beginning of this month. Tensions apparently flared and the meeting broke up in ill-humour in the early hours of the morning of April 3.

100,000 UK textile jobs go in a year

By Peter Hill Industrial Editor

More than 100,000 jobs, disappeared in the British textile and clothing industries last year and 77 mills in the cotton and allied textiles sector closed permanently.

The latest survey of the industry published yesterday underlined the depth of the recession which the textile sector has experienced, and even the welcome decline in the volume of imports provided only qualified relief since imports share of the home market actually increased.

Figures published yesterday by the Textile Statistics Bureau showed that at the end of last year, employment in the textile industry had declined by 68,000 compared with a year earlier while in the clothing sector, employment was 35,000 down on levels of a year earlier.

With man-made fibre production and carpet manufacture the worst-hit sector last year was the cotton and allied textile sector. Nearly half of the workers still employed in the sector at the year-end were on short-time.

Recovery through productivity

From Mr Vani Borooah and others

Sir, Professor Minford's article (April 7) on inflation raises some interesting points. If inflationary finance is an alternative to raising revenue are the costs higher than if the revenue is raised by taxation or borrowing? Or is he merely saying that people prefer to spend their own money themselves, in which case it is hard to see how any role for the public sector could be justified?

More generally, inflation need not be the fault of the Government at all but the consequence of a broader dispute over the distribution of the national income. Taking a simple case, suppose households want 80 per cent of output and firms want 30 per cent. The chances are that neither will attain its target share, but as they try to move towards them wages and prices will rise. Monetary expansion may be necessary to lubricate the system but it does not cause the inflation.

Over the past 15 years social pressures have increased the size of the public sector and we have had to pay more for our imports, reducing the proportion of output which can go to meeting profits and after-tax wages. This has generated periodic bouts of inflation which have probably further depressed profits and by reducing investment, cut back on the ability of the economy to pay

higher wages. A sustained recovery can only be expected if the productivity of labour starts to grow much more rapidly.

Yours faithfully,
VANI BOROOAH,
RICK VAN DER PLOEG,
MARTIN WEALE,
Department of Applied Economics,
University of Cambridge,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge CB3 9DE,
April 9.

From Mr Nigel F. B. Allington and Mr T. W. Taylor
Sir, Professor Minford (April 7) has got us wrong in including us in his "dangerous and dishonest game".

We are neither Keynesian nor monetarist and it is possible for a practising economist to be neither and still believe in something. If Professor Minford would look at the statement as carefully before interpreting it as we did before signing it, he would find that what we subscribed to was that "there is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment".

We signed that statement because we believed it to be true and we still believe it to be true. Firstly, it is our judgment that the Government attempted to deflate on a down-

swing and still control, allowing the off-balance, in the main private sector, nothing in economic support that no would subscribe to. There is no conclusive evidence for the Government demonstrating relationship between growth of the aggregate and the public sector borrowing, which achieved by the new money, does not inflationary, but inflationary effects. Further, war Government has itself capable of the money supply. Thatcher's Government exception.

Of course, there are policies, but surely a matter for discussion concerned.

Finally, if Professor wishes, on another copy apparent political monopoly he will do us the favour of discussing the matter beforehand.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL F. B. ALLINGTON,
T. W. TAYLOR,
Department of Economics,
University of Wales,
Institute of Science and Technology,
King Edward VII Avenue,
Cardiff, CF1 2NU,
April 7.

The story of concrete

From Mr Peter Campbell

Sir, I was interested to read the letter sent to you by Mr Woolrich (April 6). Your correspondent supports the need for more programmes dealing with the work of engineers, presumably on television, and points to the lack of attention to technical history in our colleges and universities.

As Secretary of the Institution of Structural Engineers History Study Group, I wrote to all the engineering faculties in the United Kingdom some time ago to ascertain the extent to which they were interested or involved in the subject of engineering history. All but two dismissed the matter of history on the specious grounds that they had more than sufficient problems with the syllabus they determine!

As an active member of the Concrete Society, I have for a long time urged that films on television that illustrate the best that has been achieved in structural architecture, and explain

why, in many instances, concrete receives bad publicity, would do much to improve public relations between designers and the population they seek to serve.

In this connection, your readers may be interested to learn that some colleagues and I are in the process of setting up the first ever museum of the history of concrete at the Southern Industrial History Museum complex at Amberley near Arundel in Sussex.

It is planned to open the first exhibition in the early summer, and it is hoped that students, historians and members of the lay public will find this fascinating story, which goes back in time to c5000 BC, a worthy addition to this important new museum.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CAMPBELL,
Campbell Reith & Partners,
Chartered Civil, Structural and Marine Engineers,
Grove House,
100 High Street,
Hampton,
Middlesex TW12 2TU,
April 8.

Pioneering d

From Mr P. B. E. Thompson
Sir, The men of the age who built the appearance of countryside to be neglected, as V (April 6) implies.

The Institution of Engineers is at the engaged in publishing which will lighten the surrounding Victorian engineers such as J. Trobe Bateman and Hawksley. Today these unknown outside the industry, yet many of dams, some nearly 100 years after they were built (for instance, the W District) are still in use.

This achievement, sketchy knowledge, theories and primitive the time, does indeed greater fame.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. E. THOMPSON,
Director (publications),
The Institution of Civil Engineers,
26-34 Old Street,
London, EC1P 1JH.

British Telecom to start high-speed desk-to-desk message service

A high-speed desk-to-desk message service is to be started next year by British Telecom.

The telecommunications arm of the Post Office. Users of the service will be able to type letters, internal memoranda and other messages on their terminals as if the terminals were ordinary typewriters, and then send the correspondence directly to the recipient over the telephone network.

Announcing this yesterday, Mr Peter Benton, managing director of British Telecom, said that his organization's primary role in the new service would be to provide the network.

"We are looking to British Telecom to supply the terminals," he said. "With Teletex we are creating a new office equipment market with vast potential and we are inviting suppliers to take advantage of this exciting opportunity."

The word Teletex is used to describe the interconnection of text-handling terminals via a telecommunications network.

"At the start, Teletex will use the public telephone network and the packet-switched data service," Mr Benton said. "Shortly afterwards we shall provide connections with the telex network, enabling Teletex customers to communicate directly with the 90,000 telex terminals in Britain and also with the one million telex users overseas."

Worldwide Teletex standards have recently been agreed by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT). These include a technical recommendation for terminals. Its aim is to ensure that users will have freedom in the way they type their Teletex correspondence as they have in using an electric typewriter.

In its simplest form, the terminal can be an electric typewriter having an ability to communicate. A more complex terminal can be a visual display unit able to perform word-processing and other specialized business functions.

Text can be prepared in A4-size pages in either upright or horizontal format. When prepared, the message is held in a store in the terminal. The message can be sent immediately or delayed for later transmission. The store will also receive and hold incoming messages, for display when required.

"Now that there are international standards for Teletex," Mr Benton commented, "I am sure that it will develop rapidly around the world. We

Technology News



Mr Peter Benton: "office equipment market with vast potential."

are discussing arrangements for an international Teletex service with a number of countries including West Germany, Sweden and Belgium. In due course we shall be able to offer an international Teletex service giving users direct desk-to-desk message communication to many countries."

Standard system

A standard design of computer system—expressed as a functional specification—has been completed for the management and accounting aspects of the direct-works departments of local authorities in a collaborative project which has involved 155 such authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Local authorities will use it to help them to comply with the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, which broadly imposes a requirement that authorities should operate their direct-labour departments as trading organizations, quoting for jobs and charging on the basis of those quotations.

The project has been co-ordinated by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and the specification was prepared with local authority consultation by Logica, the London-based computer consultancy.

The main types of work covered in the specification are highways, housing, building, engineering, parks and sewers. Separate parts of the system

handle work entry; costing, analyses and management accounting; and work programming and control.

Local authorities have contracted up to £1,300 each towards the cost of the design, with the Department of the Environment adding £30,000. The next stage for the authorities will be the implementation of the design; this can be done in several ways.

Research centre

The recently-launched International Electronic Publishing Research Centre will initially be a special-interest group of PIRA, the printing-industries research association based at Leatherhead, Surrey. Chief executive will be Mr Brian Blunden, director of PIRA's printing and electronic publishing division.

Six objectives have been set for the new centre. These are: 1. to carry out technical, techno-economic, behavioural and market research with the aim of assisting publishers, product development and suppliers;

2. to carry out research into electronic publishing on a co-operative, multi-client or exclusive basis for subscribing members;

3. to provide "hands-on and test-bed facilities" for the use of new systems;

4. to evaluate systems, software and equipment;

5. to act as an international focal point for the results of relevant studies;

6. to provide research reports, seminars, conferences and exhibitions.

Among those involved in the formation of the new centre are Mr Gordon Graham, chairman and chief executive of Butterworths, who is chairman of the board of management of the centre; Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon Press; and Dr Georges Anderia, of the European Commission. The target is to gain 100 subscribing member companies during the first twelve months.

NRDC buys shares

The National Research Development Corporation's small company innovation fund is acquiring 30 per cent of the ordinary share capital of Shapecut Machines, of Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. Shapecut has developed a range of profile cutting machines and electronic optical-scanning (line-following) control units.

Kenneth Owen

BNP reports record progress

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, The Lord Hunt of Tanworth GCB

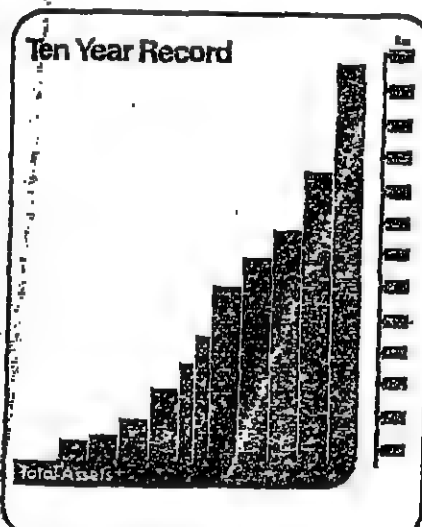
Against a troubled economic background it is very satisfactory to report that BNP Limited had another record year.

Total assets grew from £948m to £1,269m and the level of all other activities increased. Shareholders' funds increased from £39m to £59m. Including the dividend from our associated bank, United Bank for Africa, profits before tax increased from £5.7m to £7.4m and after tax from £5.1m to £6.7m.

Our sterling operations had an excellent year and the volume of business increased on average by 30%. Eurocurrency operations increased by some 15%. In the commodity markets we have continued to identify sound business opportunities. Leasing activities flourished during the year and doubled in volume. An interesting new development has been the formation of a new Eurobond and notes unit, with staff drawn both from BNP Ltd and from BNP's International Division in Paris.

Together with our retained profits a subordinated loan arranged in conjunction with our parent bank in France will enable us to increase further our commercial lending activities in London.

Our customers include some of the biggest and most important firms in the country. Our representative offices in Birmingham, Edinburgh and Leeds have continued to attract good business and we have maintained close liaison with



the BNP branch in Jersey. A major event of 1980 was the opening in Manchester of our first full-scale branch outside London. This step reflects not only our confidence in potential business in the North-West but also in our ability to increase our share of it. In London our Knightsbridge branch continues to show most satisfactory growth.

In my first year as Chairman it is my privilege to pay tribute to my predecessor, Sir Patrick Reilly was Chairman of BNP Limited for 11 years, a period of great expansion in the Bank and we owe a great deal to him for his wisdom and untiring zeal on the Bank's behalf.

Banque Nationale de Paris Limited

8-13 King William Street, London EC4P 4HS. Telephone: 01-626 5678, Telex: 883412 BNP LNB

Also in Knightsbridge, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Manchester

BNP Group Head Office: 16 Boulevard des Capucines, Paris 75009

Copies of the 1980 BNP Limited Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Glaxo regains its glamour

not going to move off its five-year plateau this year. But yesterday's £5.3m profits recovery to £35.6m interim stage adds to the excitement of a share which is looking for prospects on the drugs front in a sea of gloom.

Price closed 16p up at 338p, a new high, an improvement of almost 50 per cent in six months. That rise is very largely due to the fact that a new ulcer drug, ranitidine, a new ulcer drug which could make significant gains in a £200m-plus world market now monopolized by Smith & Kline's drug.

The figures, which would have been gloom on stable exchange rates, the signs of a possible reversal in the downward drift of return from Glaxo's mainstream products. Trading has edged upwards at last to 101, helped by improved prices and productivity while Glaxo claims some improvement in a 12 per cent gain to £331m.

It injected Zinacem seems to have the competitive squeeze on the cephalosporin field, while the anti-asthmatic drug, should help its trending higher and to ease use as investors wait for Ranitidine as a mark.

This year could reach £75m to a 1977 peak of £87m, and fully-taxed p/e ratio of around 15 of under 4; per cent assuming dividend increase in line with m is clearly ambitious.

Portland

Portland Cement seems to be taking a sanguine view of the present, both competitors and outside the industry.

However, it followed the broad pattern. A bumper first half made usually clement winter weather and cement price rise gave way to a second half when industry tumbled by 18 per cent.

Domestic profits, fell by nearly 5m before interest in the second over the year it reckons to have gained market share and the premium up from £15.1m to £16.9m with expectations.

Dividend unchanged on the



Carpenier, chairman of Rugby, has capital the shares yield 7.9 in 85p and the fully-taxed p/e at 12.

Relative optimism about 1981 is hopes of recovery in the second quarter are talking about a drop of tenth in cement deliveries after a recent fall.

Reason for optimism is that the operations, mainly Australia's form better this year after 1980's in profits to £2.9m pre-interest. Also been spending heavily in its modernizing and reducing its in cement activities.

Given the present state of the industry, a more moderate rise of 11 per cent and the cement deliveries will be only again this year it is hard to say will match last year's though the balance sheet is sound and offers a reasonable yield, and

Burton Group Back on an even keel

A bouquet, not a brickbat for Hedderwick Grumbar, or rather its former retailing team; it seems to have come closest in guessing the interim pre-tax profits of The Burton Group.

Hedderwick went for £9m for the six months to February; Burton in fact made £8.7m against most broking estimates of £8m to £6m. This is, moreover, a "clean" profit, uncluttered by exceptional items. In the same month of 1980 the comparative figure was £9.3m. For the year to August, 1980, the figure has been restated at £12.6m, down from an original £13.1m.

Burton did as well as it did despite a sales gain of only 5 per cent to £124m because it has got to grips with loss-makers and jaggards. The group has nearly completed the concentration of manufacturing capacity into only two factories employing 750 people against 14 with 13,500 in 1970; it has disposed of most of the shareholding in the French division, stemming losses but making no profit. Evans Mail Order has been sold. Haste and J. Greenrobes have been sold. Ryman's is making a little money. It may be kept, but if it fails to continue improving it too will go. It has sales of £20m a year.

Finally, borrowings are down to £16m from £44m at the beginning of the financial year and should fall further. It all seems to point to profits of around £14m for the full year, and the shares responded with a 2p rise to 137p, a new 1981 "high" where the yield is 5.7 per cent.

At first glance the good news is out; the shares have had their rise and other recovery stocks like Woolworth and Debenhams offer more tempting returns. Retail business is still flat and prospects are said to be "uncertain". But Burton is winning market share, and it still has only around 5 per cent of the menswear market and a mere 2 per cent of womenswear.

Margins are thought to offer much scope for improvement. The group has also avoided continuous "sales and now keeps stocks under tight control. The excitement of recovery may now be over, but the retailing skills of the Burton board are not in doubt, and the shares seem worth keeping for eventual retail upturn.

St Piran

Mr Raper's blatant challenge

In bidding for St Piran at well below the price laid down by the Takeover Panel, Mr James Raper has again confronted the panel with a blatant challenge.

Previous failures to comply with the panel's rulings have mainly been because of inability to pay the required price. But Mr Raper and Gasco Investments, his Hong-kong vehicle, have now confronted the authorities with the difficulty all rule-makers dread: what to do with someone who ignores you.

The panel has already used many of the weapons at its disposal, including asking The Stock Exchange to consider suspending the St Piran listing. This the Stock Exchange did, with the result that locked-in shareholders are being offered less than they might have got for their shares on the open market. The fact that the Stock Exchange must abide by its own rules to preserve an orderly market may even work in Gasco's favour: it can buy control of St Piran cheaply.

But difficult though the position now is, the authorities are not without recourse. The battle could now shift from the self-regulation front to the legal one. The panel and the Department of Trade will obviously look at the provisions of the Companies Acts, among which are disenfranchisement of shares, resort to the courts to try and prove conduct prejudicial to the interests of shareholders, forced sale of shares, and regulations by the court of a company's affairs. St Piran shareholders can take action themselves.

Business Diary: Vestey's master mariner • Small beer

class may be a little bit of a tax loop-hole which they managed to dig vast amounts of for more than 60 discovered, but they unbowed.

With his cousin Lord, head of an interior and retail emporium, the Dew's chain, is ex- take up the most im- in British shipping.

ment of Edmund of the General British Shipping has raised eyebrows in world.

he already vice-presi- Swire, but the from the number two top is seldom auto-

ected that he might content to leave his the GCBS at that, the organization its AGM on May 23 enain that Vestey's president will appear id.

whole which the ed was closed in the t. But Edmund is no controversy—four he cut off a grant company to a Persian Sussex University graduates from the d disrupted a hunt of Eagles. The sev- erned was not in- the disruption; the ter was Edmund's son



Is this the way forward for the brewing industry? Recession Special is a low strength, low cost mild newly produced by the Canterbury Brewery run by the brothers Taylor, Anthony and Simon.

The last Budget rises put between 4p and 10p on the pint at a time when consumption was falling anyway. So the Taylors decided to brew a cheap low strength special to take advantage of the lowest excise rates.

At around 40p a pint in some 30 free houses and the two pubs owned by the brewery in Kent, Recession Special (its label is shown above) certainly undercuts their two other brews costing up to 30p a pint more.

The duo have been in the brewing business for two years in the Pallo, the bare-back horse race round the main square. Their crest is the sea with a fish swimming in it ("Dolphin natural, crowned royal, natany in sea azure on ground argent").

The occasion was the presentation to Italy's motorizing press of the Metro, due to go on sale in the country from June 6. Similar events are taking place elsewhere in Europe this week.

Sergio Mla, Leyland Italia's managing director, hopes to sell 18,000 Metros before the end of the year, which should see overall sales of BL models double to 38,000.

The target is 40,000 Metros in 1981, which should be 6.1 per cent of the Italian market for cars in the 1,000 cc range.

Representatives of more than 400 Western banks are due to meet their Polish debtors in London again on Thursday in another attempt to reach agreement on the repayment of Poland's massive debt. But it is now clear that the problem of rescheduling the debt is not a member's obligations will not end with this set of negotiations. The banks and governments (which are also big creditors) are looking to 1982 and 1983 when more Polish loans should mature.

It is generally accepted that Poland is in a state of unfavourable default. The creditor banks and governments have still not calculated the precise figures, but they broadly estimate that Poland's own estimates made at the end of last year. The Polish Government then said that it owed Western banks \$12,700m, and governments and their credit agencies another \$10,400m.

Although it was known at the end of 1980 that Poland would have difficulty meeting its debts this year, the first formal warning of a failure to pay came about three weeks ago. After paying the \$830m due in the first quarter, Poland began informing banks and governments that it could not pay anything in the second quarter.

A key part of the present talks, therefore, is whether to suspend these payments—put at \$1,000m in principal and interest—until the end of June.

But that only begs the question of what happens between June and December, not to mention next year and 1983. Debt to Western banks due for capital repayment this year amounted to about \$3,100m. That has now been reduced by the amount paid in the first three months.

At the last count 426 banks were involved in 12 Western countries. Most of the leading British banks are exposed, with Barclays Bank International (BBI) and Lloyds Bank International (LBI) the biggest lenders. Poland was scheduled to repay \$220m in capital this year, and roughly the same



A Warsaw stall-holder stands sentinel over her empty trays: a victim of economic uncertainty and confusion.

amount in interest, to British banks.

In fact, Britain is fairly well down the list of lenders to Poland. West Germany, the United States, and France are owed principal of \$6,730m, \$7,500m, and \$2,700m respectively this year. Other creditors are Austria, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Japan and Canada.

Coordination of all these governments and banks is a big problem. The banks have formed a task force consisting of two banks from each creditor country, but since not all countries have agreed on its representatives, the task at present numbers only between 16 and 20 banks. Which banks will speak for their national groups in 1982 and 1983 is the subject of recently convened discussions. The British members are LBT and BBI.

Apart from these two British banks, other leading creditor banks include Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Bank of America, Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank,

and the main French institutions. There is also a host of smaller banks which have been swept up in the crisis because they were minor participants on syndicated loans. The banks are still working out exactly who is involved and how much they have at risk.

As if such a variety and complexity of banks relations was not enough, the interests of governments also have to be considered. About 50 per cent of commercial loans are guaranteed by governments. Apart from not wanting to pay out millions to the banks in lieu of debts in default, governments themselves are at risk on a huge scale. Both parties, banks and governments, must conduct separate sets of negotiations which arrive at the same conclusion.

If such an agreement, or co-ordinated set of agreements, is reached, banks and governments need to be satisfied that Poland can repay.

Whatever arrangements are

made to see the country over its immediate difficulties—hard enough in the present troubled economic and financial circumstances—they will mean little if a similar crisis erupts next year. The framework for discussion is therefore a two or three-year programme of rescheduled debts and economic stability in Poland.

The Poles put forward a programme for 1981 at the beginning of March. It estimated total capital repayments due this year at \$7,500m, of which \$3,100m was owed to banks and the rest to government.

The current account payments deficit was \$3,400m, giving an external financing requirement of \$10,900m. This was to be met by \$3,400m of net export credits, and by rescheduling commercial and official debts. Another \$1,000m bridging loan was intended to smooth the process.

Since then Poland has asked for a moratorium on repayments of all principal and

interest during the second quarter. The likelihood is that the country's creditors will agree, partly because they have little choice, and partly because they would rather defer debts than make fresh loans which would simply meet immediate obligations.

Some banks are also afraid that money lent to Poland would be used to meet debts to the Soviet Union, mainly incurred last year, and to other Comecon members.

The strategic problem is how far into the future a rescheduling agreement should reach. The banks will have to sort that problem out before they meet the Bank Handlowy, Poland's foreign trade bank, on Thursday.

The American banks are particularly reluctant to make commitments to helping in the short term if subsequent years' debts remain unsecured. By contrast, the European banks and governments, especially France and West Germany, have been more flexible, and announced their willingness to make new credits if conditions are agreed.

Conditions are a sensitive matter. Not only is Poland much the biggest international banking crisis, dwarfing those of Zaire and Turkey, but it is the first outside the International Monetary Fund, and in the Eastern block. However, much goodwill the Poles show, there must be serious doubts about their freedom to negotiate a stabilization programme without annoying the Soviet Union.

In the great confusion and uncertainty at present reigning in Poland, the sight of Western banks dictating conditions for the repayment of loans entered into by an unpopular government might not be well received.

The dreadful irony is that many bankers were willing to lend to Poland because they argued settlement of the debt was backed by the Soviet Union. Somewhat contradictorily, they also claimed that the loans promoted détente.

Thursday's meeting will be seeking a solution which secures the debt without antagonizing the Soviet Union, the Polish government and party, or Solidarity.

Why Europe's recession may be worse than expected

David Blake

interest rates, exchange rates and the price of oil. High interest rates in the United States have led to a surge of strength for the dollar. Its value against the mark has gone up by over 20 per cent over the 15 months since the start of 1980. During the first three months of this year, the dollar has risen by 11 per cent against the German currency.

Devaluation is always bad for inflation. But it is particularly important when a currency falls against the dollar, because that leads to a surge of strength for the dollar. Its value against the mark has gone up by over 20 per cent over the 15 months since the start of 1980. During the first three months of this year, the dollar has risen by 11 per cent against the German currency.

In France, this phenomenon is causing so much concern that it is referred to as a new "mini-oil shock". In Germany, the effects are being intensified by the policy changes which the authorities feel they need to verify. The Bundesbank raised its interest rates sharply in February to prevent the mark falling further and Herr Karl-Otto Poehl, the bank's president, has made it clear that he is willing to do the same again if that is what is required to stop inflation rising.

These high interest rates are particularly damaging to the German economy. Low inflation in Germany means that real interest rates (nominal interest rates minus inflation) are now more than 5 per cent, very close to the postwar record attained in late 1974. Thus in real terms German interest rates are far higher than in France, where inflation at 13 per cent takes the edge off the cost which a com-

pany has to pay.

Germany is caught in a trap. In order to keep up the value of the mark in the foreign exchange markets it has to have high nominal interest rates.

This in turn is forcing it into a position where it has very high real interest rates. So to monetary terms, the country which has one of the most successful anti-inflation records in the world, is being forced to pursue one of the toughest interest rate policies.

Some economists in international organizations suggest that every one percentage point on interest rates knocks about a quarter of a percentage point off a country's output. On that basis alone, the loss of Germany's output caused by the increase in interest rates early this year must be between half and three quarters of a per cent of gross domestic product.

But the damage does not stop there. There is the blow to domestic demand which comes from the loss of real income caused by the increase in domestic oil prices in the European countries, most of which have moved in step within the European Monetary System. Money has been transferred out of European hands as their terms of trade have worsened. That is one weakening factor on demand and output.

At the end of last year, the OECD estimated that 1981 would see a tightening of fiscal policy throughout the 24 nations which make it up. Policy changes by the seven biggest governments were expected to cut output by just over 1 per cent. When that forecast was made it did not seem a particularly tough policy. After all, the crude size of government deficits looks likely to increase because recession pushed up unemployment pay and depressed revenue.

It is now beginning to seem that the tightening of fiscal policy will cut output more than first thought. And that policy is being tightened further.

In Belgium, a new austerity package has been announced to deal with the economic crisis. Britain's Budget was tougher than seemed likely at the end of 1980.

Germany, which had planned to have the loosest attitude to fiscal policy this year is coming under increasing internal pressure for change. There is now open warfare between the Government in Bonn and the Bundesbank in Frankfurt.

Over the past week, Herr Karl-Otto Poehl has backed United States reluctance to cut interest rates against the wishes of his Government. And as the bank has issued severe warnings of the dangers if the German Government deficit is not brought under greater control.

All of these pressures for a tightening of fiscal policy are having their effect. Business confidence throughout Europe, but most notably in Germany, has been declining this year. The recession in Europe is unlikely to bottom-out before the autumn. And as the inflationary consequences of the drop in the value of European currencies feeds through, pressures to tighten still further could mount.

Recession has crept more slowly over Europe in the past two years than it did in 1974-5. But it is beginning to look as if the loss of output and employment will be as severe as the last time around.

With the worries of a new surge in inflation of the kind which followed the last recession strong in people's minds, the prospects for a sustained upswing look slim indeed.

Broadstone Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Monday, 13 April, 1981 at 2.30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31 December, 1980.

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Revenue (see below)	£1,844,063	£1,662,689	+10.9%
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£1,044,155	£ 940,628	+11.0%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	7.35p	6.59p	+11.5%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	7.10p	6.35p	+11.8%
Net asset value per 20p Ordinary Share	255.4p	194.0p	+36.8%

The comparative figures for 1979 have been restated to exclude non-recurring income received that year as a result of the removal of dividend restraint.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EJ.

David Hewson

FINANCIAL NEWS

High interest costs and falling demand hit Erith

By Michael Clark

A downturn in activity in the second half has left the Erith-based merchant's profits down on last year's performance.

Full-year figures of the London-based group show a profit of £1.65m on turnover of £12.4m, a 12 per cent increase on the £1.4m of 1979. The group's share price has risen 9.25p to 10.50p.

In spite of the shortfalls, the board has proposed a final dividend of 5.7p, a 12 per cent increase on the 5.1p of 1979.

up for the shortfall in profits with the share price responding 9p to 80p yesterday.

In his statement accompanying the figures, Mr Gordon Fisher, the chairman, blamed high interest rates and a decline in demand in the second half for the shortfall in what is traditionally the group's stronger half.

While declining to put a figure on the group's current borrowings, Mr Fisher said that it was continuing to strive to reduce its overdraft, which last year saw interest charges more than double at £378,000.

The group's second half performance, which showed only a

12 per cent increase on the first half, was in stark contrast to the previous year when profits in the second six months jumped by more than 60 per cent on the interim period.

Margins came under further pressure despite the increase in turnover and the chairman admitted that volume had also showed signs of strain.

Included in the figures is an exceptional item of £1m previously held for deferred tax but now no longer required.

Looking to the current year, the chairman confirmed that business was still not as buoyant as he would like, but added that things were beginning to look up.

NCC sells 29.9pc stake in Petrocon

By Philip Robinson

Mr Graham Ferguson, Lacey's NCC Energy, which is taking a 15.4 per cent stake in the US group Simplicity Patterns, has sold its strategic 29.9 per cent stake in Petrocon.

The sale of 1,765,580 shares was at 32p. Last July, NCC topped up its holding in Petrocon by buying 20 per cent of the shares in a dawn raid at 36p. NCC will receive £564,985 from the deal.

The energy group has sold 19.9 per cent of the shares to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), 5.5 per cent to a subsidiary London Atlantic Investment Trust, and 265,580 to Mr Peter Hodgson, chairman and managing director of Petrocon.

As a result, Mr Hodgson will own 8 per cent of the company. Madge Ltd, a private investment company in which Mr Hodgson owns a third of the shares, controls 12.7 per cent of Petrocon, a stake it bought from John Swire & Sons last August.

Earlier this month, Petrocon reported a pre-tax loss of £17,997 for the year to December 1980 against a profit of £152,588. After below-the-line extraordinary items of £392,302, the retained loss was £517,913 against a profit last time of £14,805.

The group, which has not paid a dividend since the first half of 1979, announced it had passed the final dividend. Contained in the final figures was an item of £80,415 relating to redundancies and severance payments.

In mid-January, Mr James Pound, co-founder of the group, resigned. In a board reshuffle, Mr Ralph Messent left the main board but remained managing director of the group's Offshore Drilling Supplies operation.

Crown House puts its case

By Michael Clark

Crown House, in its revised offer document, lays the blame for Denbyware's profits decline on its board's failure to adopt new marketing techniques.

Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman of Crown House, urges Denbyware shareholders to accept the latest offer of 12.4p and valuing the group at £5.3m, which would give them an increase in income of some 150 per cent. However, shares of Denbyware remained unchanged yesterday at 12.5p.

According to Mr Edge-Partington, the new offer takes into account that negotiations are in hand for the sale of Denbyware's 50 per cent stake in International Ceramics to a consideration thought to be around £2m. Since last year, a contribution of some £750,000 any benefit from the sale would be materially out-



Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman of Crown House.

weighed by the loss of such a contribution, he added.

The offer document also underlines what it believes is Denbyware's weakness in marketing. In contrast, the

marketing abilities of its competitors had achieved much more favourable results.

Since 1976 Denbyware's pre-tax profits have declined from a record £1.5m to a little over £600,000 last year. Indeed, until Denbyware can develop a proper marketing strategy its profits will continue to decline in relation to those of its competitors.

Moves aimed at stopping Crown House's advances have included the revaluation of its factory at Denby. But Crown House says that this is only appropriate if Denby's tableware interests are producing a satisfactory return from the use of this factory. But so far, Mr George Robinson, chairman of Denbyware, has failed to forecast adequate profits from its tableware interests, making the basis of valuation hypothetical and inappropriate, the document concluded.

Burnett & Hallamshire lifts stake in Brint

By Michael Clark

Burnett & Hallamshire, the mining equipment group, resumed its recent spending spree yesterday when it increased its stake in Brint Investments, the energy related investment group.

Burnett increased its stake from 4 per cent to 23.2 per cent by purchasing 900,000 shares for cash from Temple Investment & Finance.

Mr George Halsey, chairman of Burnett, who is joining the board of Brint, said that the purchase was a natural extension of the group's business. Brint is heavily involved in oil, coal and gas exploration. However, he declined to mention the size of the cash consideration.

Mr Halsey said that the deal was regarded by Burnett as a long-term investment although he did not rule out the possibility of a full-scale bid later. But he emphasized that a full review and further consultation by the board would be required first.

As a result of the sale, Temple Investment & Finance's stake has been reduced to 36.6 per cent.

News of the increased stake failed to move the share price, which slipped £1 to £11.1.

The group's expansion policy has accelerated sharply in recent months after last year's successful rights issue to raise £11m. Burnett is currently capitalized at about £95m.

Since the rights issue the group has spent more than £66m on various acquisitions with the emphasis on the United States. In January, it bought Rushcliffe Fuels and Pineholt developments for £16m followed by Clift Oil of Maidstone for an undisclosed sum. In March, it paid £4.5m cash for a Pennsylvania coal field and two weeks later it added a Californian property deal valued at £530,000.

BSR hopes to return to profit in second half

By Our Financial Staff

BSR, the record changing consumer products group, has dropped sharply into the red in the second half of the current year.

In the year to January 10, the group saw profits of £34,000 plunge to a loss of £17,666m. It passed the dividend. On a cost basis the loss was £23.4m.

But Mr John Ferguson, the chairman, tells shareholders in his annual report that although sales for the first two months of this year were lower than in the same time in 1980 there are grounds for believing that the level of activity in practically all companies in the group will continue to improve.

He says that in the sound reproduction division, all factories are now working a five-day week. Except for the small

engineering companies within the consumer products division, all factories are working normally. Production levels of lead items such as electric kettles, saucepans, teapots, vacuum cleaners and electrical accessories have been raised appreciably.

Mr Ferguson says that although the opening half will show a loss, it is expected that the second half will record a return to profitability, if sterling does not appreciate over its current levels.

The BSR figures show that in the first two months of this year almost two-thirds of total sales, 60 per cent so overseas, in the United States its main market.

Last year the total workforce fell from 15,418 to 13,388. The group is now just over 50 per cent geared with a debt of around £31m.

London & Continental climbs 21pc

By Richard Allen

London & Continental Advertising, the specialist advertising group headed by Mr John Goffar, an Associated-Devises director, lifted its share price by 21 per cent to £260,000 last year.

The group, which reversed into Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon in 1979, was one of the first companies to join the Stock Exchange's unlisted securities market, which opened last November.

A final dividend of just 0.14p gross represents the first payment since the group achieved public status through the reverse takeover.

Mr Goffar said yesterday that each of the company's divisions progressed well in what was a difficult year for industry generally.

The group, which first specialized in selling advertising for hotel display, has been expanding fast in the poster business recently. Last year it won exclusive advertising rights to the Central Milton Keynes Shopping Area, the main ferry terminus for the port of Dover.

Forward sales contracts now top £1m and with around £750,000 of cash, the group has embarked upon a substantial site acquisition programme. Group turnover last year rose from £909,000 to £1.2m.

Metal Box buys 49pc of Irish group

Metal Box has agreed with Borden Inc. to purchase a 49 per cent interest in Borden International Packaging, an Irish metal box maker.

The purchase price of £181m is payable in cash by instalments over an 18-month period. The company operates a factory at Abbey in the Republic of Ireland manufacturing cans for dried food products. Can manufacture will continue after completion of the new arrangements, and Metal Box will be supplying to Borden technical and general assistance. Plans are in hand to develop further can production in the Republic.

Anglo-Indonesian offer for Eva lapses

The offer by Anglo-Indonesian Corporation for Eva Industries has now lapsed.

Acceptances were received for 355,980 shares of Eva (3.80 per cent). Anglo and its subsidiaries owned 2.58m shares (27.57 per cent) before the offer, and have purchased a further 362,000 shares (3.87 per cent) during offer period.

The combined shareholding of Anglo and those acting in concert with it, exclusive of acceptances, now totals 40.31 per cent of Eva's share capital.

Martin Black holds its market share

Over the first quarter of the current year, the Martin-Black wire rope group has continued to experience the low levels of activity seen in the latter part of 1980.

Mr Ian Morrow, chairman, says in his annual report that the group has, however, held its share of the market and is within its cash limits.

Moss Engineering buys spares group

Environmental engineer Moss Engineering Group is strengthening its engineering goods wholesale and retail activities by paying £750,000 for a Welsh auto factoring business, McJohns, which trades in motor parts, spares and accessories at Cardiff and Barry.

Moss sees the acquisition as a further step in their expansion into engineering goods markets.

Benn Brothers sells four of its titles

Benn Brothers has sold four of its titles. These comprise the trade journals Shipping and Shipbuilding and the Banner Publishing Company for £100,000 cash and the directories Ports of the World and International Shipping Volumes I and II to Lloyd's of London Press for £203,400 in cash.

In the last financial year the net profit attributable to these publications represented 4 per cent of the group's net profit before tax.

New oil company seeks up to \$20m in Europe

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Pearshall Petroleum, a new company which will take a share in United States oil development and exploration, is planning to raise up to US\$20m (£12.5m) through a private placing of shares with London and European institutions.

Up to 2m shares are being offered at \$10 each and providing at least \$7.5m is raised, Pearshall will get a stock market quote in Luxembourg and seek permission for a public offering in London towards the end of May under Rule 163 (1).

Tipperary Corporation, a Texas oil and gas production and exploration company, is forming Pearshall and under partnership agreement with

Tipperary the bulk of money raised will be used to drill up to 50 wells in the Austin Cretaceous in Texas.

Mr Bernard Feshbach, president of Californian investment bankers Feshbach & Sons, explained that Austin Chalk was an established oil-bearing area in about 80 per cent of the wells drilled there should prove economically successful. He said, several well-known London institutions had already underwritten the offering. Pearshall is expected to make regular quarterly dividend payments when income starts to accrue about 90 days after the deal is completed. Pearshall plans to pay out half of its share of income generated.

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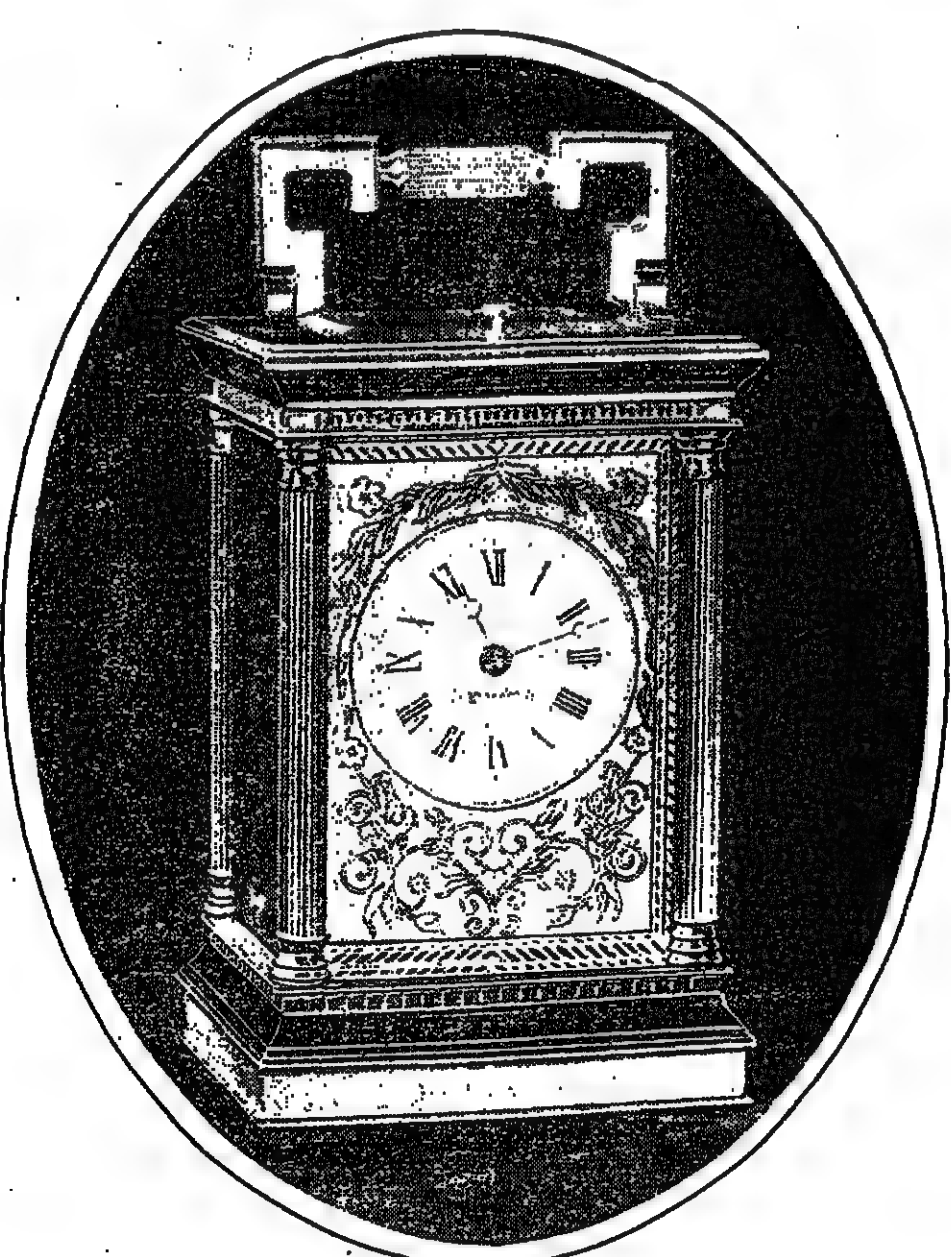
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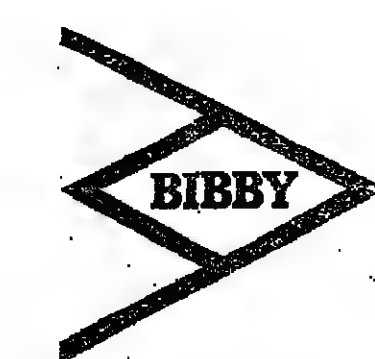
The Over-Counter Market

1980-81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch's	Gr. Ch's	1m	P/E
75	39	Airsprung G	72	-	4.7	6.5	11.4	
50	21	Armitage & Gies	49	-	1.4	2.0	7.2	
192	92	Eardon Hill	191	-	9.1	5.0	4.9	
98	68	Deborah Ser	98	-	4.5	6.0	3.3	
126	68	Frank Horse	105	+1	6.4	6.0	22.2	
110	39	Frederick Pz	51	+1	1.7	3.6	-	
110	68	George Blair	68	-	3.1	4.5	4.0	
110	59	Jackson Grou	106	-	6.9	4.5	9.6	
124	103	James Burrou	117	-1	7.9	4.8	-	
334	244	Robert Jenkin	320	-	31.3	9.8	-	
55	50	Scruttons "A	52	-	5.3	10.2	3.8	
224	209	Torday Limit	209	-	15.1	7.2	3.6	
23	8	Twinkl Ord	111	-	-	-	-	
90	69	Twinkl 15	72	-	15.0	3.3	-	
56	35	Unilock Holdi	45	-	3.0	4.0	6.9	
103	81	Walter Alexan	101	-	5.7	5.6	5.6	
263	181	W. S. Yeates	253	nd	13.1	5.1	4.8	

Reward for effort



In February this year, the Lord Mayor of London presented J. Bibby & Sons Limited with a Corinthian carriage clock for winning The Accountant and Stock Exchange Large Company Award for the best report and accounts for 1979. We made further improvements in 1980 with a record profit for the fifth successive year.



The Industrial and Agricultural Group

Copies of the latest report and accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, J. Bibby & Sons Limited, Richmond House, 1 Rumford Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ

CHAIRMAN, LESLIE YOUNG REPORTS ON THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 1980. Profit before tax for the year rose by 11.5 per cent to a record £10,822,000 compared with £9,705,600 in 1979. Profit for shareholders after tax and extraordinary items was £8,369,000. Earnings per Ordinary share rose from 18.61p to 19.98p fully taxed. It is proposed to pay shareholders a final dividend of 4.925p per 50p share which together with the interim dividend of 2.20p makes a total of 7.125p (1979 6.25p) for the year, an increase of 14 per cent. I am confident of a further overall increase in profit before tax for the current year.

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